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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League's Umran Assails U.S. Policies

LD0805112990 Kuwait KUNA in English 1028 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 8 (KUNA)—Arab League assistant secretary general Adnan Umran has expressed belief that American peace initiatives on the Middle East will not meet any success.

In an interview with the United Arab Emirates daily AL-ITTIHAD, published here Tuesday, Umran said: "I don't forsee any chance for success either for the plan of Baker or any U.S. initiative."

He attributed his dismal view to the fact that neither of Israel's leading parties, the Labor or Likud, is [word indistinct] to hold peace negotiations.

Lashing out at the U.S. Mideast policies, the Arab League ranking official who was interviewed in Damascus, added: "The American Administration is not a qualified party for a mediator since it is biased and allied with Israel."

He cautioned Arabs against being mislead by contradictory statements made by U.S. officials, "since the U.S. Administration is too weak to stand in the face of Israel."

On actions taken by the Arab League to put an end to the Jewish influx to occupied Palestine, Umran said that the League has adopted urgent decisions on forming a committee grouping Arab foreign ministers to visit capitals of the Security Council permanent member states.

He said that the league has also made it clear to the Soviet Union that it is not against the emigration of Soviet Jews per se, because it is a sheer Soviet affair, but rather opposed to the way this decision is being used by the U.S. and Israel to jeopardize Palestinian interests and peace efforts in the region.

Umran added that Moscow has promised to incorporate some changes on the emigration decision, such as giving the emigrant a Soviet passport and allowing him to choose his final destination.

On the awaited extraordinary Arab summit, the league's assistant secretary general said that it will examine key topics, topped by the Palestinian uprising, Jewish emigration to the occupied territories, the propaganda campaign against Iraq and the Lebanese crisis.

On the league's role in the Iraqi-Syrian agreement on the Euphrates waters, Umran said that the league was pleased at sponsoring this deal, hoping that it would act as a prelude toward clearing the air between Baghdad and Damascus.

Palestinian Affairs

'Crisis' Brews Between Algeria, Abu-Nidal Group

JN0705175390 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 May 90 p 23

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—According to Palestinian sources, a serious crisis is brewing between the Algerian Government and Sabri al-Banna's "Abu-Nidal" group. The crisis, which might aggravate to such an extent that it could call for the intervention of another Arab country, is blamed on an attempt on the life of 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Isa—leader of a faction that broke away from Abu-Nidal's organization.

On the morning of 25 April, three gunmen opened fire on 'Isa from a speeding red Renault near his home in the Algerian capital. He was hit by three bullets including one in the right eye which was successfully operated on at the military hospital where he remains under tight security. The three assailants were apprehended, and the subsequent investigation by Algerian police revealed they were members of Abu-Nidal's organization. One of them was said to be a representative of the group in Algiers.

'Atif Abu-Bakr, secretary general of the defecting faction, later issued a statement blaming Abu-Nidal's group for the murder of several hundred members of the group in Lebanon and Libya. Abu-Bakr urged the Algerian Government to disclose the details of the assassination bid on 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Isa and to punish the assailants and their sponsors. He pointed out that Algeria's security services know who they are and that one of them is called "Ihab." He works at Abu-Nidal's office in Algiers. Abu-Bakr explained that Ihab had been recognized by 'Isa and his family and that they saw him with their own eyes.

Meanwhile, Abu-Nidal's group has sent a lengthy cable to the Algerian president urging intervention to put an end to what it called a conspiracy against the group and its reputation, and against the Palestinian people. The cable charged that certain members of the Algerian security services are involved in the "conspiracy."

Salah Khalaf on Summit, Emigration Issues

JN0605180390 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 5 May 90 pp 1, 23

[By Usamah 'Abd-al-Hadi]

[Text] Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has said: Current Arab efforts to have a summit that we are in great need of, does not need any study or preparation as I heard some Arab leaders say. This is because the threats to the Arab nation posed by the Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine, the flagrant threats to fraternal Iraq, the attack [as published] on the al-Rabitah plant in Libya, and the unjust U.S. resolution deeming

Jerusalem Israel's capital—all this makes it imperative for the Arab leaders to adopt a pan-Arab stand that rises above regional interests in favor of solidarity and common Arab objectives.

Addressing a speech rally at the Palestinian Embassy in Kuwait to mark the 21st anniversary of the Arab Liberation Front, he said: We will brief the Arab leaders on the results of the Palestinian peace initiative, which is basically an Arab peace plan adopted at the Fes summit, in which the Arab leaders asked us to lay down arms and to deal with Israel with the peace they are talking about and facing us with before the world. We only abided by the Arab peace plan to protect our blessed intifadah, which went past its 30th month strongly and resolutely. The objectives of the intifadah are victory and liberation despite the weakness of Arab support and stands.

Abu-Iyad attacked the USSR for allowing Jewish emigration on the pretext of human rights, as if remembering these rights only when its interests fall in line with Jewish interests, which created this emigration. We are paying the price of this emigration. The Greater Israel plan set forth by Shamir is a lesson to be learned from this emigration.

Abu-Iyad praised Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's courageous stand and his direct threat to set fire to half of Israel. He said: We have not heard such a threat from an Arab leader in 25 years. The threats to Iraq are not aimed only against the Iraqi people and Army, but against the entire Arab nation. Because the direct Iraqi reply is true and serious, it prevented Israel from carrying out its premeditated attack on fraternal Iraq.

Abu-Iyad spoke about the statements and speeches made by the Islamic currents in the Palestinian and Arab arenas and their attack on the Palestinian revolution. He pointed out that true Muslims do not only speak but work and follow the instructions of Islam by encouraging jihad and martyrdom. He said: Where were they when the Palestinian revolution gave up its martyrs and bore arms against the Israeli attacks? Why do they come now to demand half of the seats of the Palestine National Council, exploiting the loftiest values of the Muslim citizen under the names of organizations and parties that we have never heard of before? They exploit forums to attack the honest people who have made and are still making contributions to their cause and nation. We are facing our people and it is impossible for us to compromise on our people. We know the Zionist enemy better than anyone else. We have exposed this enemy through the Palestinian peace initiative over which they are attacking us on the pretext that we are selling Palestine and that they instead are calling for its liberation from the river to the sea.

Commentary Criticizes Arab Summit 'Complacency'

LD0805043890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Brothers, on the surface there is an apparent active Arab political movement aimed, as a whole, at preparing the atmosphere for the holding of an expected Arab summit in Baghdad.

But, under the surface it seems that there is rigidity and complacency controlling the Arab will, consecreated by some provocative relaxation from which some Arab leaders and officials suffered when they dealt with the urgent call of brother president Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to hold the Arab summit in Baghdad this May, that is, before the superpower summit next month.

Here is the PLO Executive Committee, in concluding its meetings today in Baghdad, stressing the necessity of holding the summit, and putting a Palestinian working paper for the Arab summit which gives a conception of the united Arab stance to face the Zionist and American dangers and the challenges to this nation. It also gave a conception of the action needed to clarify the atmosphere between the Arab capitals and how to get out of the disputes and divisions with a united stand in order to face up to the Israeli threats and to stop the trespasses against this nation's entity, which extends from the Ocean to the Gulf.

Here is Mr. Chedli Klibi continuing his moves and efforts among the Arab capitals in order to secure the quorum for the aspired to summit. Here are the Saudi envoys continuing their voyages to Damascus, Baghdad, and Cairo for the same purpose, the purpose of holding an emergency or extraordinary Arab summit.

However, in Cairo, Prince Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi crown prince, [name as heard] stated that patience and good thinking and preparations are necessary for the Arab summit. This is a call which implicitly carries a wish not to respond to the urgent Palestinian call for holding the summit. This definitely will serve the enemies of the nation—from the Zionists to the Americans—who are trying to ambush it.

We do not disagree with His Highness Prince Abdullah about the necessity of good preparation for this summit. However, this call should under no circumstances make His Highness disregard in his calculations the terrifying and frightening things which are knocking on the doors of the Arab nation, which are Soviet Jewish emigration, the Zionist settlement policy, and unlimited American military support to the Zionist occupation. Anyone who threatens Jerusalem threatens the rest of the Arab nations' capitals and the rest of this nation's sacred places.

The terrifying and frightening Zionist settlement occupation, American military support, and Soviet Jewish emigration, carry the signs of disaster for the entire Arab nation, not only for Palestinians if the Arab nation does not make up its mind and adopt action that will combat the dangers and stop the trespasses.

Moroccan Assembly Condemns Decision on Jerusalem

LD0705225690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 May 90

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies this evening held a public session under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmed Osman and with the attendance of a number of members of His Majesty's Government and a number of members of the Arab Diplomatic Corps acredited to Rabat. This session was devoted to the Palestinian question, particularly with regard to the emmigration of Soviet Jews and the attitude of the U.S. Congress vis-a-vis holy Jerusalem. Regarding this issue, the Chamber issued a statement prepared by the leaders of the parliamentary groups. Here is the text of the statement as read out by the secretary of the session:

[Begin recording of unidentified session secretary] In the name of God; the merciful; the compassionate;

Proceeding from the Moroccan people's firm attitude vis-a-vis the Palestinian question which they regard as their own national issue, the Chamber of Deputies held a special session during the evening of Monday 13 shawwal 1410 H.—7 May 1990—to discuss the development of the Palestinian question, and particularly the immigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine and the attitude of the U.S. Congress vis-a-vis Jerusalem.

After recording the seriousness of the operation of concentrated emmigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine, which constitutes another link in the chain of conspiracy against the Palestinian people and which aims at settling new Jews in Arab land and the compulsory deportation of Palestinians in order to achieve Israel's dream to establish the Greater State, a matter which contravenes international laws, norms and conventions as well as human rights; and after dealing with the dimensions of the U.S. Congress decision which regards united Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel in flagrant defiance of all international laws and resolutions; the Chamber: Declares its total support for the resolutions of the Jerusalem Committee and its positive initiatives in confronting all challenges; its condemnation of the zionist intrasigence and arrogance in an aggressive expansionist policy against the lawful national rights of the Palestinian people; its call for the immediate halting of the emmigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and putting an end to the policy of settlement and the building of settlements in the occupied territories out of the Chamber's consideration that the emmigration process contravenes all international principles and norms as well as human rights; its denunciation of the U.S. Congress decision, which regards Jerusalem as the capital city of Israel, because this decision is not based on international law and totally contradicts the international committments of the U.S. Administration. The Chamber demands the annulment and rescinding of this decision and has decided to launch a concentrated campaign, in accordance with Arab and Islamic parliaments, concerned with the U.S. Senate and House, and to call the parliaments of the world to move quickly in order to protect Jerusalem, as required by fairness and justice; [the chamber declares] its total backing for the legitimate Palestinian struggle and its standing by the blessed Palestinian intifadah.

The chamber emphasizes the necessity to find a final solution to the question of Palestine by way of convening an international conference which recognizes the establishment of the State of Palestine and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination under the leadership of its legitimate representative—the PLO [passage omitted] [end recording]

PLO Economics Official Meets Thai Premier

LD0805032890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Brother Abu-Ala' [Ahmad Quray], member of the Fatah Central Committee and director general of the PLO Economic Department, met the Thai prime minister in Bangkok during a reception yesterday in his honor.

During the meeting, Brother Abu-Ala' conveyed to the prime minister the greetings of brother President Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and his wish to develop Palestinian-Thai relations. They also briefly reviewed the results of Palestinian-Thai talks.

Brother Abu-Ala', and the accompanying Palestinian delegation, conferred with Mr. Phong Sarasin, Thai deputy prime minister, as well as with the minister of state for foreign affairs, the deputy foreign trade minister, the deputy speaker of parliament, and the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the parliament.

During these meetings, the delegation reviewed the Palestinian situation, the Palestinian peace initiative, and the Israeli policies which reject all peace initiatives.

The Thai officials, with whom the Palestinian delegation met, expressed complete support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state, as well as their sympathy with the Palestinian people's uprising and right to confront Israeli expansionist policies.

Ambassador to Namibia Presents Credentials

JN0605165490 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir has presented his credentials to Namibian President Sam Nujoma as the State of Palestine's accredited ambassador to Namibia. The Namibian foreign minister, the head of protocol, and the secretary to the president attended the ceremony.

During the reception, President Sam Nujoma reiterated his country's firm support of the Palestinian people's struggle and their heroic intifadah against the Zionist occupation to attain their national legitimate rights to

repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

President Sam Nujoma has extended an invitation to brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to visit Namibia.

Egypt

Musa on Sectarian Sedition, Fundamentalists

Warns Against Disturbances

NC0705063690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 6 May 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has emphasized that there is no sectarian sedition in Egypt, that the Muslims and Copts have lived side by side as part of one fabric ever since the Islamic invasion in the year 32 Hegira, and that nothing has happened in all this time to disturb the serenity of national unity in Egypt.

The interior minister issued a warning to the elements which try to cause disturbances and undermine security and stability in Egypt, saying that the police organs will not hesitate to strike at anyone who might try to undermine Egypt's security and stability. He added that some self-seeking individuals incited the recent events, which are not directed against specific persons but against the regime in Egypt.

Speaking at a symposium held at the press syndicate tonight, the interior minister said that, by virtue of its history, position, and civilization, Egypt has a leading role and distinctive standing in the Arab, African, and international arenas, despite the difficult conditions it is passing through. He pointed out that there are some who do not want Egypt to occupy its proper position.

Referring to the recent events in al-Minya, al-Fayyum, and Manfalut, the minister said: A new trend has emerged recently. It has been called the religious or Islamic trend. Some classified it as an extremist trend and others as a moderate one. He emphasized that Islam is a religion of peace, love, and tolerance, as indicated in the Holy Koran and the prophet's sayings. He added that Christianity calls for forgiveness, tolerance, and love.

The symposium was attended by press doyen Makram Muhammad Ahmad and many journalists. [passage omitted]

The interior minister said that the extremist elements have nothing to do with Islam, that three extremist brothers had shot and killed their father, and that others killed and terrorized innocent citizens and tried to attack the press doyen and two former interior ministers.

The minister added: I am not worried about Egypt's security, despite all these events, because the prerequisites for the sedition they seek will not be made available in Egypt, God willing. He pointed out that proof of this are the events of 1986 involving the central security forces and the total blackout which occurred in Egypt at the end of the month of Ramadan because of power failure. He said that not one incident took place on the night of the blackout although some had taken place during the day. [passage omitted]

The interior minister emphasized that there are controls on the implementation of the state of emergency law, which is not applied against honest citizens. He said: When I took over the Interior Ministry in January this year, there were 720 political detainees and 1,020 criminal detainees. We began examining the cases of certain detainees and some of them were released. The number of political detainees went down at one time to 410 detainees but this figure rose to 809 after the recent events. The number of the criminal detainees went down to 803.

The interior minister lauded the efforts of the anti-narcotics men in Egypt in combating drug addiction and trafficking. He said: An area of 250 feddans planted with poppy in the Egyptian countryside was recently raided. Other cases were also tackled. He praised the efforts of those who are fighting currency smuggling and foreign currency counterfeiting, particularly that of $100 notes, quantities of which were recently seized in Sinai and were probably smuggled from Israel. He referred to the cooperation between the Egyptian organs and the U.S. combat organs in order to apprehend the gangs of counterfeiters. [passage omitted]

16 More Jihad Members Arrested

JN0705160190 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 May 90 p 7

[By Hasan al-Shayib]

[Excerpt] Bani Suwayf security organs have apprehended 16 more members of the new Jihad organization, a breakaway from Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's. They were caught while escaping from al-Fayyum to al-Minya and Cairo after police had tightened the siege around them. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Iraqi Foreign Minister Visit

Meets With Mubarak

NC0705181790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has received Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who conveyed a verbal message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, as part of the constant and continuing consultations between the two fraternal countries. The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

'Aziz arrived in Cairo this evening and was received at the airport by Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid. In an arrival statement, the Iraqi foreign minister said he would convey a verbal message to President Mubarak from President Saddam Husayn. He said the message concerns the consultations between the two countries over the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Baghdad. He added that President Saddam Husayn is very eager to consult with President Mubarak to hear his views on the Arab summit. 'Aziz stated that there have been no contacts on

changing the venue of the summit. 'Aziz said the summit will discuss the threats to pan-Arab security and noted that consultations are under way to fix its date.

Says Mubarak for Baghdad Summit

JN0705200190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1948 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak welcomes holding the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad.

He told the INA correspondent in Cairo that in his discussions here this evening with President Mubarak, views on all the issues were identical.

'Aziz said there exists wide-scale Arab support for holding the summit in Baghdad.

Discusses Summit With 'Abd-al-Majid

JN0805081490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with his Egyptian counterpart Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed preparations for convening the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad, relations between the two fraternal countries and means of promoting them, and the current Arab situation.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs and first Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the Iraqi ambassador in Cairo attended the meeting.

Departs; Cites 'Identical Opinions'

NC0805082390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0747 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo this morning for home, following a one-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. Tariq 'Aziz also held talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, as part of the continuing consultations between the leaders of the two countries. 'Aziz and 'Abd-al-Majid also reviewed issues of common concern.

In a departure statement, 'Aziz said that he is carrying an oral reply from President Husni Mubarak to President Saddam Husayn's message which he conveyed to President Mubarak yesterday. He added that the two countries have identical opinions on all issues.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office; and Nabil Najm, Iraq's ambassador to Cairo, bid 'Aziz farewell at the airport.

Kuwaiti Official Arrives in Cairo 7 May

Welcomes Sammit Proposal

NC0705203790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs [title as heard], arrived in Cairo this evening. He is carrying a message for President Husni Mubarak from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad.

In an arrival statement, the Kuwaiti official said that the message deals with bilateral relations, ties between Arab and Islamic states, and current issues. He added that Kuwait welcomed the convening of the Arab summit and noted that the date and venue of the summit should be determined by consultations among Arab leaders. The Kuwaiti minister pointed out that the Arab nation is facing challenges manifested in the Israeli expansionist policy and inter-Arab differences. However, the Arab nation is capable of confronting such challenges and mending differences, he added.

Gives Message to Mubarak

NC0805100090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0832 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received a written message from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The message deals with bilateral ties as well as the situation in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, Kuwait's minister of state for foreign affairs [title as received] and personal envoy of the Kuwaiti amir, handed the message to President Mubarak during a 75-minute meeting.

Al-'Usaymi said that President Mubarak asked him to send his regards to Shaykh Jabir, and that he and the president discussed a number of issues concerning current Arab developments.

Al-'Usaymi disclosed tht the meeting involved a discussion of the Arab summit. He noted that the call for such a summit was made by the State of Palestine and not by Kuwait or Egypt. Al-'Usaymi said that it is up to the Arab leaders to decide on the matter and that Kuwait is on the side of the Arab majority.

Icelandic Prime Minister Hermannson Arrives

Will Tour Archaeological Sites

NC0605203790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—Icelandic Prime Minister Steingrimur Hermannson arrived in Cairo tonight on a six-day official visit to Egypt at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, who headed the delegation which welcomed the guest at the airport. President Mubarak is scheduled to receive the Icelandic prime

minister, who will also hold official talks with Prime Minister Sidqi on ways of boosting trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

During his visit, the Icelandic prime minister will tour archaeological sites in Cairo and Luxor, the industrial area in the 10th of Ramadan city, and the High Dam area.

Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC0705114490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1052 GMT 7 May 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—At the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this morning, President Husni Mubarak received Icelandic Prime Minister Steingrimur Hermannsson, who arrived in Cairo yesterday. Also attending the meeting were Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Dr. 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research; and the Icelandic ambassador in Cairo.

In a statement after the meeting, Hermannsson stressed his country's support for President Mubarak's peace efforts. He said that he and Mubarak discussed his 10-point proposal and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan. He said: "We agree with President Mubarak that circumstances are not appropriate at present in view of the current crisis in Israel and Shamir's extremely intransigent stand." He emphasized that Egypt and Iceland have identical views on the situation in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Sidqi Comments on Talks

NC0705142090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—Official talks between Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Icelandic Prime Minister Steingrimur Hermannsson opened here this morning. The two prime ministers first held a private meeting and were then joined by members of their delegations. The Egyptian delegation to the talks consists of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Supply Minister Dr. Jalal Abu-al-Dhahab; Economy Minister Dr. Yusri Mustafa; Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; and Dr. 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research and head of the team escorting the Icelandic prime minister during his visit to Egypt.

In a statement after the two-hour session, Dr. Sidqi said President Mubarak and the Icelandic prime minister this morning held an in-depth discussion on the situation in the Middle East and Egypt's role in giving momentum to the search for a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He added that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid reviewed the efforts Egypt is undertaking at the international level to promote the peace process at the talks between the two countries' delegations.

Dr. Sidqi added that Prime Minister Hermannsson had emphasized Iceland's and the Nordic countries' understanding of and support for Egypt's position on peace and their support for Egypt at all the international economic forums and financial institutions, particularly the World Bank and the IMF. Prime Minister Sidqi noted that the discussion also dealt with bilateral relations and ways to promote trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Iceland's prime minister promised to exert efforts to boost bilateral relations.

Lebanese Chamber Speaker, Delegation Arrive

NC0705155190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a four-day visit. Speaker al-Husayni, who is heading a large delegation which includes representatives of all Lebanese parties, was welcomed by People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub.

Dr. al-Mahjub stated that Egypt is concerned about and strongly supports the legitimate government in Lebanon, and added that this visit is one aspect of Egypt's efforts to support Lebanon's Arabism and independence.

For his part, Speaker al-Husayni said Lebanon appreciates Egypt's efforts to support legitimacy in Lebanon and that the fraternal ties between the two countries gives Lebanon strength. He said the Lebanese people faced several Israeli schemes, but managed to thwart them all. He stressed that establishing the legitimate government's authority is a task which stems from the recommendations of the Casablanca summit and the national accord charter, which both seek to extend the state's authority throughout Lebanese territory and remove the illegitimate obstacles to the exercise of state sovereignty.

Speaker al-Husayni welcomed Egyptian-Arab rapprochement in general and Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement in particular. He said all aspects of Arab solidarity help resolve the Lebanese crisis, but Egyptian-Syrian solidarity will have an especially positive effect on Lebanon and strengthen the state's authority throughout its territory.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud Departs

NC0705081690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Cairo this morning following a one-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. He also held talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. In a predeparture statement, Prince al-Faysal said that he had conveyed a message from the custodian of the two Holy Mosques to his brother President Husni Mubarak, in connection with joint committee issues.

Ghali Returns After Visits to Geneva, Netherlands

NC0605210490 Cairo MENA in English 2026 GMT 6 MAY 90

[Text] Cairo, May 6 (MENA)—State Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali returned here tonight from Holland following a week-long visit there during which he attended meetings of the panel of trustees of the International Law Committee in The Hague. He had also attended earlier meetings of the International Law Committee in Geneva on Monday.

Mubarak Opens Government Offices on Saturdays

NC0605201390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has instructed the government to make Saturday a working day for all ministries and central departments, thus limiting the weekend holiday to Friday. All banks and schools are exempt from this measure.

MENA has learned that the object of this measure is to increase production and serve the interests of the masses.

Column Criticizes Government Anti-Muslim Conduct

JN0805072790 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 May 90 p 5

["A Word of Love" by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] In the eyes of many scholars and intellectuals, there is no sectarian sedition in Egypt. They believe the issue is nonexistent and that relations between Muslims and Copts in Egypt are excellent and unmatched in any other country with more than one religion. However, the government and public opinion are constantly pressed into believing that Egypt is up to its ears in sectarian sedition, and that the source of this sedition are Muslim youths in particular. The pressure is applied by a number of communists and Copts and some suspect Muslims. They all seek a non-religious state.

The government has succumbed to this pressure and believed the myth. It chased religious Muslim youths, so much so that Muslims became aliens in their own country, citizens of the 10th class, have no government, and cannot demand any rights. They are constantly under suspicion; they are constantly chased. The equation now is as follows: You are a young religious Muslim so you are the enemy of the regime. Going to the mosque has grown to be a suspicious act, and will bar the issuance of a certificate [of good conduct].

Let us assume for the sake of argument that the government advertised a vacancy and that an ordinary Muslim youth, a religious Muslim youth, a Copt, and someone with good connections applied for it. Irrespective of their qualifications—which concern no one—the appointment committee will reject the ordinary young man because he has no connections; it will reject the religious young man because this is what the instructions state. The competition will then be between the Copt and the one who has connections. If the committee rejects the Copt, he will complain to the investigation police claiming that the committee members are affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and that they are fanatics. This is a serious accusation, especially under the emergency law.

The situation is serious, and the pressure was intensified to the extent that instructions were issued denying religious Muslim youths their rights. Here lies the real sedition—when the young find that their only crime is that they are religious. Religious young Muslims are not allowed to teach at universities or join police or military academies. No veiled woman announcer can appear on the television screen. Religious youths cannot find their way to top positions, and veiled women cannot become leaders so that they may not spread the wearing of the veil among the public.

And the pressure on the government—claiming that Muslim youths in particular are the reason—continues, and the government is pressed into chasing these youths, fighting them, and denying their rights. The youths now hold the firm belief that religious Muslims are the enemies of the regime, that veiled women are readily liable to be accused of high treason, that frequenting al-Haram Street [center for casinos, big hotels, and night clubs] qualifies one for promotion while frequenting mosques leads to jail, and that bikinis lead to promotion while veils lead to isolation. Religious Muslim youths believe that they are unwanted citizens, having no rights in their country. And this has proved to be true, and is substantiated.

The constitution, for instance, protects People Assembly members no matter what they say under the dome of parliament. But the law punishes the mosque's imam if he expresses his ideas freely. It is true that we dismiss the deputy when he trespasses the red line and the imam when he talks politics, but the authority that makes the dismissal is different. The dismissal of the deputy is a political decision, but the dismissal of the imam can be made by any investigation officer; the charge of extremism is always ready. Also, dismissal is easier than detention. The youths see and hear all this, and they become extremists. They no longer believe that justice exists in their country. They see in Egypt a party advocating communism and secularism while the government rejects the establishment of a party advocating Islam. This is a contradiction at its worst.

The government fell under an illusion and believed it. The pressure on the government by communists, Copts, and some deviant Muslims is continuing. The Government's gravest action was that it isolated Muslim youths in their country and considered religiousness a crime.

Newspaper Criticizes U.S. Position on PLO

NC0805080690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—The AL-AKHBAR newspaper says today that the United States is using its money and influence to threaten international organizations by saying that it will cut off its financial contributions to these organizations if they admit Palestine to membership. This position, the paper says, is not only bewildering but also unsuitable for one of the two superpowers, particularly since it is based on laws that the Congress promulgated under heavy Jewish and Zionist pressure.

The existence of such extraordinary laws in the United States proves how vulnerable the U.S. Administration and Congress are to pressure by racial and religious groups who play on the personal interests of congressmen, the paper remarks.

What is particularly strange, AL-AKHBAR says, is that the United States had implicitly recognized the PLO and opened official talks with that organization through its ambassador in Tunis. The United States, the paper adds, wants to be seen as a country that seeks to resolve the Palestinian problem, but it is using every possible means to fight the organization which the whole world views as the representative of the Palestinian people.

The paper concludes by saying that the U.S. positions reveal unjustified hostility to the Palestinians and cast heavy doubts on the credibility of the United States and its desire for peace.

Libya

Envoy Denies Mediation Requested With U.S.

LD0605181190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1720 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 6 (KUNA)—The Libyan ambassador here Hassunah al-Shawish, in a press statement, Sunday denied that Libya has asked Tunisia to mediate between Tripoli and Washington to normalize relations between the two countries.

The statement which was made available to KUNA stressed as "baseless" what UAE daily AL-ITTIHAD has reported last Friday.

The paper said member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Major al-Khwaylidi al-Humaydi has handed a message over to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali from President Mua'mmar al-Qadhdhafi in this respect.

The ambassador hoped that the media would seek credibility and accuracy in carrying its reports.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Syria's Khaddam 6 May

Discuss Mubarak, USSR Visits

LD0705083190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 7 May (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution [Al-Qadhdhafi] yesterday received brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of the Republic of fraternal Syria, who conveyed to him a message from President Hafiz al-Asad.

Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam informed the leader of the revolution of the results of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's visit to Syria and the results of the visit of President Hafiz al-Asad to the Soviet Union.

Departs Same Day

LD0705083590 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 7 May (JANA)—Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of the Republic in fraternal Syria, and the delegation accompanying him, left Tripoli last night after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Further on Al-Qadhdhafi Remarks to Union

LD0705170290 Tripoli JANA in English 1438 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Ma' 7 [7 May] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution made clear that long bitter experience of mankind showed that all instruments of government were not useful to the masses for those instruments were tyrranical and the masses have been, and still [are], suffering from them.

The leader added, during a meeting yesterday with the secretariats of the unions, syndicates [words indistinct] associations at the level of great jamahiriyah. This means that peoples are being burnt with the fire of savage wars which they did not decide but were imposed, and still, by instruments of government.

The leader of the revolution expressed his belief that the British people through its history did not agree to fight in Africa, Asia and in the oceans and seas losing its beloved sons for land which had nothing to do with Britain and the same applies to the stance of the American people vis-a-vis the war which America waged against the people of Vietnam.

The leader pointed out that means the instruments of government became evil to peoples and have nothing to do with democracy. He added there is nothing more dangerous than war for peoples do not decide it but instruments of government force peoples to wage them and bear the consequences. What have the British people got to do with the Malvinas war. The government won the war but the people lost its sons.

The leader said also I do not believe that the French people agrees to send its sons to Chad for example and to central Africa. Parliament might agree on that. This means that parliament does not represent people for parliament endorse wars.

The leader pointed out that all forms of traditional instruments of power are ludicrous for parties. Parliaments and governments began to fall and multipartism which was announced shows the future of the one party system, two party system, the front, government and parliaments. He added that all these forms of government fell opening the way automatically to jamahiri system.

He said that multipartism is the way towards jamahiriya for multipartism is merely people's congresses and people's committees. Those who calling for multipartism are moving towards us despite their opposition to people's power and fear from the masses. Everyone would like his party to govern the people and those whether they like it or not are on the way towards the jamahiri system for once the parties fail the people's congresses would form [word indistinct] people's committees.

The leader of the revolution stressed that the system which the world will finally settle for is the jamahiri system and the era of the masses where no one can represent the masses, or govern on their behalf or claim that he can undestand better than the masses or to charge himself with the task of running the masses' affairs.

He said in this era the issue is bigger than a government, party, group of parties and bigger than parliament. Now the masses become everything, their demands are everything, and the nature of life forced pocople to run their affairs by themselves and decide their own fate by themselves.

He added there is no government made up of 20 ministers and a group of employees able to understand the problems of millions of people in this era. In the past life was simple and easy but now matters are more complicated and one person on his own cannot meet all demands.

He pointed out that the individual may fail to run everything until all people are interested to run their affairs by themselves thus people's committees consisting of specialists in this or that field will be set up.

Sudan

Official Says SPLA Agrees to Relief Supplies

EA0605170290 Khartoum SUNA in English 1022 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 6 May (SUNA)—The movement of Garang [Sudanese People's Liberation Army, SPLA] has agreed to the transportation of food supplies to the needed people in the south through the programme of Lifeline Sudan, said the under-secretary of the Ministry of Relief and Displaced Persons, Dr. Ibrahim Abu-'Awf to the daily AL-INQADH AL-WATAN of today, indicating that the movement presented some reservations regarding the distribution's percentage of the relief supplies, affirming that these differences will be solved through a committee.

There were about 12,000 tonnes from the relief supplies as reserve Abu-'Awf said, pointing out that the donor countries expressed readiness to cover any emergency shortage of the needed food quantities.

General Security Organization Established

EA0705112290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1745 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 6 May (SUNA)—The National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] today issued the National Security Law of 1990, establishing the General Security Organization [Jihaz al-Amn al-Am] by combining the Sudan (?Security) Organization and the Internal Security (?Department). Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the NSRCC and chairman of the security and operations committee, said in a press statement that this action had been taken due to the [word indistinct] and interpenetration of security matters, making it difficult to distribute them between the two dissolved organizations [words indistinct] human and financial resources. [Word indistinct] issued by the NSRCC said that under the new law the head of the new General Security Ornanization had been appointed, but his name was not mentioned. It went on to say that the NSRCC had promised to supply the (?organization) with all the resources to enable it to discharge its functions.

RCC Member Says Israeli Arms Captured

EA0605211690 Khartoum SUNA in French 1515 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 6 May (SUNA)—Major General Faysal Abu-Salih, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member [words indistinct] the continuation of the war in southern Sudan to the rebel movement's rejection of all the peace initiatives, and its intransigence.

In an interview given to the daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Maj. Gen. Faysal confirmed that the revolution's determination to achieve peace and stability in the country was in accordance with the recommendations of the national dialogue conference. The government is currently seeking to apply the federal system to the country, he added.

The RCC member also said that the Armed Forces were capable of dealing with the rebellion and controlling the security situation in southern Sudan. Mr. Abu-Salih said, moreover, that the Armed Forces had captured arms and communications equipment confirming the involvement of Israel in the conflict in southern Sudan.

Al-Bashir Chairs Diplomatic Spending Discussion

EA0605213990 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 6 May (SUNA)—Cuts in the expenses of diplomatic representation has been the subject of a meeting headed by General 'Umar al-Bashir, Command Council chairman, Sunday. The Council of Ministers in its today's session also reviewed a new salary cadre aiming to quash differences between the diplomatic missions and the regulations of the diplomatic corps, official spokesman Khawjali Salihin said after the meeting.

Salihin, culture and information minister and government official spokesman, said a new cadre has been set up for all diplomatic missions abroad, according to which many a difference has been overcome. Salihin has indicated that the new cuts will save the country [word indistinct] of 35.1 million Sudanese pounds every year.

Radio SPLA Lists Officers To Be Dismissed

EA0705190290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1317 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] We have been informed by a well-informed source in military intelligence at Armed Forces General Command that there is a list containing more than 100 officers' names, most of them brigadiers and colonels, prepared by the Council of Forty of the Islamic Front, which supervises the Armed Forces. The list has been delivered to the command, which has been told to dismiss these officers in the next few days.

Here are the names of some of the officers who will be dismissed: Major General Muhammad Ahmad al-Zayn, armored corps; Major General 'Uthman al-Tahir, commander of conscription service; Major General al-Tijani 'Ali Salih, commander of the military academy; Major General Muhammad 'Uthman Malik, commander of moral guidance; Major General Salah al-Dawwi, a paratroop corps commander; Brigadier Mirghani Yasin, second commander, armored corps; Brigadier Abu Qurun, paratroop corps. We shall provide you with other names in the future.

Kuwait

Agreement Provides $300 Million to Soviet Union

LD0705132790 Kuwait KUNA in English 1248 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Moscow, May 7 (KUNA)—Kuwait will lend the Soviet Union 300 million dollars.

The loan will be extended by the Kuwaiti Foreign Investments and Contracting Company (KFICC) to the Soviet Bank for Foreign Trade (SUBFT). Under a loan agreement the Soviet bank receives a mid-term loan of 300 million dollars.

The agreement was signed here today by KFICC [word indistinct] chairman and managing director Abdallah al-Gabandi and SUBFT President Yuriy Moscowiskiy in presence of Kuwait's ambassador here 'Abd al-Mohsen Al-Du'ayj.

Al-Gabandi, who arrived here on Sunday, will meet later today with the Soviet finance minister to discuss bilateral financial and economic cooperation.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Reiterates Foreign Policy Fundamentals

LD0705224190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1455 GMT 7 May 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 7 May (SPA)—King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired the Council of Ministers meeting this afternoon, 7 May, in al-Salam palace, Jeddah.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA, in which he said:

On guidance from the king, the council heard a brief report on the most important political and economic events in the Arab region. [passage omitted]

In the light of reports heard by the council, the custodian of the two holy mosques, commenting on some political matters, said:

It is known the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a clear and firm line in its foreign policy, based on foundations and rules that do not change, most important and prominent of which is:
1. The Kingdom takes no position or decision unilaterally that concerns the issues of the Arab nation. It takes such decisions only after consultations and exchanges of views with the brother leaders under the aegis of the Arab League, according to the rules of the league, and proceeding from the views of those who are primarily concerned by the issues.
2. Noninterference in the internal affairs of any Arab or Islamic state, and, in return, rejection of any interference from any quarter in the domestic affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
3. Constant endeavor and continuous efforts toward anything likely to bridge over flaws, to unify the ranks and ensure an Arab and Islamic consensus through solidarity and cooperation for the good of this nation and its fateful issues.
4. Offering support and assistance to whoever needs them, observing the Kingdom's Islamic teachings and Arab values. This is done discreetly and harmlessly, out of its conviction of its role in this field.
5. Mobilizing all material and human resources and all means available to serve the two holy mosques and the pilgrims, visitors and those who come for the minor pilgrimage from various parts of the Islamic world. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Reviews Talks With Saddam Husayn

LD0705155790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 May 90

["Statement by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince"—SPA headline]

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, the crown prince, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and commander of the National Guard, has described his meeting with his brother, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the Iraqi Republic, as "a brotherly Arab meeting."

His royal highness indicated, in his answers to questions from INA prior to his departure for Jordan from Baghdad airport today, that talks during this meeting dealt with the affairs of the Arab nation. He pointed out the mutual understanding between the two sisterly countries, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Iraqi Republic.

Answering a question about the Kingdom's view of convening the Arab summit in Baghdad, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said: "I informed His Excellency President Saddam Husayn about our view, and we are expecting God's good and blessing."

His royal highness stressed, answering a question, that the Zionist campaign against Iraq is an unfair one from the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nations. His royal highness the crown prince, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and commander of the National Guard further said: "This campaign will not be accepted by any Arab citizen or official."

Pilgrimage Minister Responds to Iranian Claims

LD0805041690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2325 GMT 7 May 90

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 8 May, SPA—His Excellency 'Abd-al-Wahhab Ahmad 'Abd-al-Wasi, minister of pilgrimage affairs, has made the following statement to SPA:

We have followed with great regret the statements made by the official in charge of organizing pilgrimage in Iran,

Imam Jamrati, and carried by Iranian radio last Saturday, 5 May, in Arabic and Persian, in which he said: "The Iranian pilgrimage has been suspended after the failure of indirect negotiations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran regarding an increase of the quota of Iranian pilgrims this year," insisting on the adoption of the same methods, such as staging demagogic demonstrations, raising atheistic slogans, frightening the pilgrims and disrupting worship in the holy ritual sites. Such terrorist acts occurred in previous years, and the entire world saw each one of them via the satellites.

His excellency added: "The Iranian head of the pilgrimage organization, Imam Jamrati, knows full well that two years ago, at the beginning of Ramadan, he and the Iranian delegation met with a Saudi delegation I myself headed. The meeting was in my office in Jiddah. He discussed with us Iran's wish to be allowed to send 150,000 Iranian pilgrims. I explained to him very clearly that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committed to the resolution adopted by the foreign ministers of the Islamic states at their 17th conference in Amman 21-25 March 1988. [passage omitted]

The minister of pilgrimage affairs and religious trusts, Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Abd-al-Wasi, continued: At that meeting, however, Imam Jamrati insisted Iran would send 150,000 pilgrims to perform their pilgrimage in the way they prefer. [passage omitted]

The minister continued: I would like to reiterate to the Muslim people of Iran and to the millions of Muslims worldwide that Saudi Arabia still welcomes the Iranian pilgrims this year within the limits of the quota specified for Iran and according to the teachings of Islam, which are respected by the millions of Muslims everywhere in the world since God imposed that fifth pillar of Islam [pilgrimage] until today.

I also would like to remind Jamarati that Saudi Arabia has not closed the doors of negotiations with Iran about this matter in response to generous mediation by some Arab and Islamic leaders, contrary to Jamarati's announcement the day before yesterday, Saturday, that the negotiations stopped.

If Iran wants its citizens to perform the rites of pilgrimage within the limits of the quota allocated for Iran and according to God's book and to the recommendations of His messenger, then they are welcome, and Saudi Arabia will grant them all the services and facilities similar to the pilgrims of all Islamic countries.

But if the Iranian intention has other aims that violate the Islamic rites, ethics, and limits, then we reject that, and the whole Islamic world rejects it as the leaders, ulamas, imams, and organizations of the Islamic world have said in hundreds of official explicit statements and communiques.

Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Abd al-Wasi concluded his statement by saying: As for the contents of Jamarati's claims, accusations, and allegations, which we are used to hearing from him and some Iranian leaders this time every year, we rise above answering them in obedience to God's words: "And when the ignorant address them, they say: Peace." God has spoken the truth.

United Arab Emirates

Algerian Economy Minister, Delegation Visit

Confer With Heir Apparent

JN0705160690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received Algerian Economy Minister Ghazi Hidouci here today.

The meeting focused on bilateral cooperation in all areas and means of enhancing relations in the interest of the two countries.

His highness the heir apparent expressed his hope the meetings of the joint UAE-Algerian economic committee would further bolster joint cooperation.

Meet President, Convey Letter

JN0705164290 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 7 (GNA)—UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received a letter from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid dealing with the brotherly relations between the two countries as well as issues of mutual concern.

It was conveyed by Algerian Minister of Economy Ghazi Hidouci during a meeting with Shaykh Zayid here. The meeting was attended by UAE Minister of Economy and Commerce Sayf al-Jarwan, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayd Al Nuhayyan, Director of the President's Office Khamis Butti al-Rumaythi and Algerian Ambassador Ahmed Ali al Ghazali [name as received].

Joint Committee Signs Minutes

JN0705194690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 May 90

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 7 May (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria have emphasized the need for developing bilateral economic, trade, and technical cooperation, as well as cooperation in other fields.

The UAE Ministry of Economy and Trade issued a statement today at the conclusion of the joint UAE-Algerian committee's third session with the two countries signing the minutes of the meeting.

The statement said the two countries have agreed to set up an investment company. The Abu Dhabi Investment Fund will contribute 51 percent, while the Algerian Local Development Bank will cover the rest. The manager of the company will be an Algerian, membership in the company will be distributed equally between the two countries, and company headquarters will be in Algiers. [passage omitted]

The statement added the two sides reviewed the bilateral trade process and voiced their determination to expand the volume of bilateral trade by arranging exhibitions, increasing the visits of trade delegations, enhancing cooperation between their chambers of commerce, and exchanging lists of the products each will export to the other to familiarize the public in both countries with these items. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

North, South Political Committee Ends Meetings

JN0505144990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] The Political Organization Committee's fourth and final round of meetings concluded this afternoon at the presidential palace in Ta'izz under the chairmanship of brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee [YSPCC]. In the final session, Dr. Ahmad al-Asbahi, Advisory Council and General Committee member and Standing Committee treasurer, read the statement concluding the committee's meetings. Following is the text:

As our Yemeni people rejoice in the revolutionary joy of achieving the great goal of unity and having attained the highest levels of noble, honorable, and everlasting revolutionary struggle, the Political Organization Committee held its fourth and concluding session in Ta'izz 3-5 May 1990, chaired by YSPCC Assistant Secretary General Salim Salih Muhammad. This crowns its earlier meetings with completion of the tasks with which it was charged.

In the meetings, national awareness was expressed of the need for renewing the necessary rules for political activity in the Yemeni Republic in a way that would consolidate free democratic practices, according to the goals of the Yemeni revolution, for all sectors and levels of society. This would guarantee that the whole potential of national sacrifice would be harnessed to benefit the historic transformation process and to entrench and develop the gains our people have achieved by their suffering and sacrifice throughout their struggle.

In a democratic atmosphere of unity, with a sincere spirit, and after serious and responsible discussion, the committee completed its tasks. It was agreed to refer them to the political leadership for approval. They are the following:

1. The draft of the basic elements of the law on political organizations and parties.
2. The draft of the basic elements of the charter on political activity of political parties and organizations.
3. Agreement concerning the document governing political and party action in security and military institutions.
4. Draft agreement on joint action between the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party. The leadership of the congress and the party will have to approve this agreement.

Agreement also was reached to form a committee for dialogue with political parties, organizations, and public figures.

The Committee, therefore, has completed its tasks, consolidating the necessary bases for political action in the Yemeni Republic and guaranteeing democratic, free, and responsible practices.

Since inaugurating its activity 31 October-2 November 1989, the Political Organization Committee now has concluded its meetings after the historic Aden meeting. Everything hoped for has been achieved, and all aspirations have been met, constituting a great victory and the declaration of the birth of the great and towering Yemeni Republic.

Let the enemies of the Yemeni peoples and unity know their desperate attempts to thwart the course of unity and development in the homeland will not be stronger than the will of our people, who have managed to thwart all conspiracies at every stage of the victorious Yemeni revolution. The conspirators will never succeed.

Glory to the Yemeni revolution, immortality to its martyrs, and victory to Yemeni unity.

Ta'izz, 5 May 1990.

DFLP's Hawatimah Arrives for Talks With Salih

JN0705202690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], arrived in Sanaa today on a several-day visit to our country, during which he will meet with senior Yemeni officials.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, brother Natif Hawatimah said he will meet with brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and officials of the General People's Congress to discuss issues concerning the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, the agenda of the emergency Arab summit, and the means of providing material, moral, and political support for the Palestinian people's intifadah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Offers 'All' Resources to 'Threats'

JN0705132690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a personal message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message was delivered by Ibrahim al-Bishari and 'Abdallah al-Sunusi during their meeting with his excellency the president at noon today.

In his message, Col. al-Qadhdhafi expressed great admiration of his brother Saddam Husayn's courage and strong stance in face of the savage imperialist-Zionist onslaught. Col. al-Qadhdhafi stressed Libya's unlimited support for Iraq. He also stressed any attack against Iraq is an attack against Libya, and that the Libyan leadership and people, as well as all of Libya's resources, are at Iraq's disposal. He also said he expresses the Libyans' determination and feelings, as well as the hopes and trials of the Arab nation.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi added: The Libyan people—women and men—consider you the courageous knight in this confrontation against imperialism and Zionism. He added: We are the most eager and prepared to support and back Iraq in face of the threats, and we are ready to attend any summit conference convened in Baghdad.

The president asked Ibrahim al-Bishari and 'Abdallah al-Sunusi to convey his greetings and thanks to his brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He also asked them to convey to Col. al-Qadhdhafi his wishes of continued success and prosperity for the fraternal Arab people in Libya. His excellency stressed that when the Arabs are united, no power can encroach upon them; but, when divided, any power can attack each individual Arab country and will, therefore, encroach upon Arab national security.

Means to improve relations between the two fraternal countries also were discussed during the meeting.

IAEA Reports Findings on Nuclear Installations

JN0705165090 Baghdad INA in English 1640 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Vienna, May 7, INA—International Atomic Energy [IAEA] based in Vienna, asserted that all material subject to safeguards of the agency was existent in the Iraqi nuclear installations.

That came in a press release here today on results of the programmed periodical visit paid to the Iraqi nuclear installations by two inspectors from the agency during the period 7-11 April.

The statement further mentioned that the safeguards section affiliate of the IAEA had on May 2 sent to Iraq's representative to the agency detailed statements on the outcomes reached by the agency.

It added that those statements based on the information collected between March 1989 and April 1990 a conclusion had been reached that the material subject to the safeguards was existent in the Iraqi nuclear installations.

RCC Vice Chairman, 'Arafat Address Conference

JN0705201590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 May 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—Proceedings of the Arab popular conference for solidarity with Iraq against the Zionist and imperialist threats began a short while ago at the Palace of Conferences.

'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], deputized for President Saddam Husayn in opening the conference, attended by more than 2,000 political, intellectual, professional, and trade union figures representing various parties, organizations, and unions in the Arab homeland. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, attended the opening ceremony.

The conference aims to stress popular Arab support for the Iraqi people against the imperialist-Zionist onslaught, which tries to encroach upon Iraq's credibility and Arab and international standing and prevent it from possessing means of science and technology and the resources that will enable it to proceed in these fields.

Ibrahim urged the Arabs to urgently draft a strategy to face the conspiracy of the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

In a speech he made to the Arab popular conference, Ibrahim said the Arabs also are required to draft a new, strong, and effective Arab position that will turn the page of retreat, disintegration, and despair which engulfed the spirit of the Arab masses after the recent defeats and the setbacks suffered by the nation.

He also said what is immediately required now is to release the energies of the Arab masses, give them their democratic freedoms, promote their initiatives, diversify their methods of action, and make them effectively take part in decisionmaking.

The RCC vice chairman asserted Baghdad's popular conference is being conducted amid major and radical international developments, which President Saddam Husayn highlighted in his opening speech at the Arab Cooperation Council summit in Amman.

He referred to the failure of the Zionist and imperialist wagers on the collapse of the Iraqi fortress, the protector of the greater Arab homeland's eastern flank. This, he said, has made the enemies start an unjust political and media campaign, with misleading slogans, designed to create the right climate to make another attack against the source of light and victory in the Baghdad of glory and peace.

Ibrahim said: Your support for the Iraq of Arabism and leader Saddam Husayn is support for our Arab rights and

just pan-Arab crucial causes. The plot of the Zionist-imperialist alliance does not only target Iraq, but the Arab presence and future as a whole. This conference, in which the vanguards of victorious Arabism are taking part, is a splendid pan-Arab demonstration and a strong expression of the unity of Arab struggle.

The RCC vice chairman declared the goal was to strike at Arab power represented in the lofty Iraqi achievements and to repress our pride in and joy over these achievements. He explained that Iraq's serious endeavor to remedy the defect in the balance of power and round out the equation of the Arab-Zionist conflict when Israel was of greater weight, arouses the fury of the Zionist-imperialist alliance and endangers this alliance's interests and suspected designs.

He also said the Zionist-U.S.-British alliance is designed to impose a suffocating isolation on Iraq to prevent it from continuing its cultural and scientific progress and from acquiring experience in working with modern technology. It also is designed to terrorize the states and companies that cooperate with Iraq in order to stop Iraq's dealings with them and to hamper our ambitious programs.

He also stressed the need to extend every material and moral assistance to the brave intifadah of the Palestinian people, represented in their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, to ensure the intifadah's steadfastness and escalation on the basis of the national program, which was approved during the Algiers conference.

He called for a stronger Arab position against the U.S. and Zionist pressures to protect Palestinian and Arab rights and the utilization of every pan-Arab capability and every legitimate struggle and weapon, including military force. He then asserted that the meeting of the Arab leaders in the capital of Arab civilization and of victorious leader Saddam Husayn, Baghdad, within the framework of an emergency Arab summit conference has more than one militant meaning and bears every sign of solidarity and cohesion with the Iraq of glory and Arab pride.

He added the Baghdad summit should be a summit of awakening, solidarity, and confrontation of the Zionist and imperialist challenge and should feature the Arab future seriously and comprehensively. The RCC vice chairman also stressed we do not want to attack anyone, hurt their dignity, or harm their rights. But at the same time, we are harder than diamond itself, and we will chop off the heads of spies and of the aggressors of our homeland and nation; the time when Arabs and their interests were disregarded has gone, and a new era of Arab progress and dignity has begun. [passage omitted]

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat addressed the conference. He saluted leader President Saddam Husayn, who led the battle of the Arab nation and achieved victory over its enemies at the eastern gate.

He said President Saddam Husayn reflects the conscience of all Arabs from the Gulf to the ocean.

It is no coincidence, he added, that we now are meeting in Baghdad in this major rally, which represents Arab officials and personalities, to restore our Arab power. The enemies thought, at a certain point in this bad Arab time and when Iraq was preoccupied with the war on the eastern front, that they could impose their conditions on the Aab nation and the Palestinian revolution.

The Arab knight, Saddam Husayn, turned the sacred Palestinian stone in the hand of the Palestinian child into a missile, he said.

He added: We are here to restore the balance of power in this region. The question is whether the Arab nation will maintain its existence in the face of the expansionist Zionist threat. This threat is disclosed by the recently published so-called map of Greater Israel, which includes the whole of Palestine, Jordan, half of Syria, two-thirds of Iraq, and one-third of Saudi Arabia.

He called on the Arabs everywhere to wake up before it is too late, because what is happening to the Arab nation is very grave. He stressed the importance of holding the Arab summit in these particular circumstances, before the forthcoming summit between U.S. President Bush and USSR President Gorbachev.

He stressed the Arabs are strong when they are united and weak when they are fragmented. He said the Arab nation came to say yes to the Arab summit to face up to the serious challenges to the Arab nation.

'Arafat stated the Zionist entity and those supporting it do not want peace, but the capitulation of the Arab nation. He added: In this nation, there are no people ready to capitulate. There are only people ready to sacrifice their lives for the sake of vindicating Arab dignity and lands. He expressed happiness over the convening of this summit, which he described as a response to the call made by knight Saddam Husayn, the call in which he awakened the Arab nation's resolve, the resolve of every man, woman and child of this nation.

'Arafat said this conspiracy not only targets the Palestinian people; it targets the entire Arab nation, as much as it is poses a direct threat to Iraq. He referred to the threat posed by the Zionist plan to settle Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying this plan aims to gather 3 million Jews in Palestine. He said the number of new immigrants could reach 4 million by the end of this century.

Yasir 'Arafat said the Zionist entity seeks to perpetrate an aggression against Iraq, and the anti-Iraq campaign led by imperialist-Zionist quarters was meant to prepare for this aggression. He wondered about the total silence maintained by the Western states over Israel's possession of atomic bombs and its killing of Palestinian children. He wondered why the conscience of Western leaders remains dead over these crimes, yet is moved by the execution of a self-confessed spy who plainly admitted he came to Iraq to spy on its secrets.

Palestinian president 'Arafat said the Arab nation now needs Arab moves, in which the Arab masses must have a role, to help keep the torch of the intifadah glowing, help the Palestinian stone triumph and emerge stronger and more powerful than the Zionists' will, plots, and fascist methods. This is needed so the Palestinian flag eventually will flutter over the walls, minarets, and churches of Arab Jerusalem, 'Arafat added. [passage omitted]

Iraq, Turkey Sign Minutes on Euphrates, Trade

JN0705132890 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 7, INA—Iraq and Turkey today signed in Baghdad a joint minutes for technical, scientific, trade and economic cooperation at the end of meetings of the higher joint Iraqi-Turkish committee.

The minutes was signed by Mr. 'Isam 'Abd-al Rahim, Iraqi oil minister and Mr. Isin Celebi, Turkish minister of state in the presence of Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier and Mr. Yildirim Akbulut, Turkish prime minister.

The Turkish premier is currently on a visit to Iraq at the invitation of Mr. Ramadan.

The Iraqi-Turkish joint minutes provided for expanding and diversifying the volume of trade exchange between the two countries and for the Turkish side to extend credit facilities for the purpose of financing its exports of commodities, services and projects to Iraq.

The minutes also included an agreement on a package of measures aiming at promoting the two countries cooperation in fields of oil, transport, communications and industry with a stress in particular on engineering industries and the cement industry in addition to conveying electric power to Turkey and consolidating the technical and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

The joint minutes gave high priority to the question of joint waters through dependence on the principle equal exploitation of the Euphrates waters and in this regard an agreement was reached to hold a meeting for the ministers of irrigation of the countries through which this river is passing during next June. The meeting to be held in Ankara would thoroughly discuss means of reaching a final agreement on the exploitation of this river waters in a way preserving the common rights of the countries benefiting from it.

Addressing the signing ceremony, Mr. Ramadan expressed confidence over future development of bilateral relations and boosting joint efforts depending on the principle of frankness for facing any obstacle.

Also speaking on the occasion, the Turkish prime minister said he had felt during his talks with President Saddam Husayn and Iraqi officials the availability of political will and common desire for boosting and promoting relations between the two neighbourly countries. He added that continuation of relations of friendship and cooperation on solid bases would realize the common interests and ensure stability and peace in the entire region.

This afternoon, Mr. Akbulut and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad concluding a three-day visit to Iraq and was accorded an official send off in which Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan took part.

Speaking to INA before departure, the Turkish premier said that his talks in Baghdad with senior Iraqi officials were frank and friendly and had achieved the aspired for objectives for deepening and boosting brotherly relations between the two countries.

He described works of the joint Iraqi-Turkish technical committees as successful and contributed to realizing the joint interests concerning the two countries in the economic and trade fields.

Mr. Akbulut stressed his country's desire in boosting and deepening bilateral relations.

YAR, PDRY Ministers Arrive To Meet Saddam

JN0705065790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)—'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, information minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]—personal envoys to President Saddam Husayn from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium Chairman Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas—arrived in Baghdad this evening.

In a statement to INA, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said he is bringing a message to President Saddam Husayn from the Yemeni leadership on the ongoing preparations to declare Yemeni unity. He added he will consult with Iraqi officials on developments in the Arab arena. The YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister reiterated his country's support for Iraq in confronting the brutal conspiratorial onslaught aimed against Iraq, the Arab nation, and pan-Arab security.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the two countries' ambassadors in Baghdad received the YAR and PDRY officials at the airport.

Meet President, Convey Letter

JN0705120390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn this morning received 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and Muhammad Jarhum, information minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]. The envoys of YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah

Salih and Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY's Supreme People's Council Presidium, gave his excellency the president a letter from the Yemeni leadership dealing with moves related to Yemeni unity and preparations for an emergency Arab summit.

His excellency the president asked them to convey his wishes of progress and prosperity for the brother Yemeni people.

He emphasized Iraq's support for Yemen's unity as a source of strength to the Arab nation and a major step along the path of pan-Arab unity.

The president said the Yemeni leadership's moves in the interest of unity of the Yemens is a historic action, not only from a national perspective, but also from a pan-Arab standpoint, and noted its implications for the renaissance and advancement of the Arab nation.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the ambassadors of the YAR and PDRY in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Depart 7 May

JN0705134490 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 May 90

[Excerpt] The special envoys to leader President Saddam Husayn from 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the people's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] left Baghdad today. These envoys were 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, PDRY minister of information. [passage omitted]

Saudi Crown Prince Departs After 2-Day Visit

JN0705133590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, left Baghdad today following a two-day visit to Iraq.

His highness was accorded an official farewell ceremony, headed by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

In a statement to INA, Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said a brotherly spirit of understanding prevailed during his meeting with President Saddam Husayn, which dealt with all issues of interest to the Arab nation.

Regarding the campaign launched by the Zionist and colonial circles against Iraq, Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said it is an unjust and unfair campaign against Iraq and the people of the Arab and Islamic nations.

Government Said 'Ready' for Prisoner Exchange

TA0805044390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Israel is willing to release Lebanese detainees in return for the repatriation of all Israelis being held prisoner or missing. Prime Minister Shamir's adviser, Avi Pazner, said last night that Israel shares fully in the concerns of the American President, Congress, and people for the lives of innocent people being held by terror groups in Lebanon. Ya'aqov Rosenberg has more:

It was Israel's answer to calls in the United States for the release of Lebanese Shiites being held in Israel. On Sunday, New York Senator Daniel Moynihan called for Israel to free its Shiites.

A statement released by the Prime Minister's Office said Israel is ready to release Shiite prisoners as part of a deal that would include the three Israeli soldiers being held by Hizballah and the Western hostages. The statement released by the prime minister's adviser for media affairs, Avi Pazner, rejected any comparison between the Western hostages and the Lebanese being held by Israel. Those Lebanese were captured in attacks against Israeli troops or civilians along the northern border.

According to foreign reports, Israel is holding 30 Lebanese Shiites, including Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the senior Shiite commander in south Lebanon, abducted last summer. The South Lebanese Army [SLA] is holding about 350 Shiite prisoners. SLA commander Antoine Lahd says he will not free his prisoners until the SLA men held by Hizballah are freed as well.

Further on Shamir's Efforts To Form Government

NRP Presents Unity Proposal

TA0705162390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] NRP [National Religious Party] representatives conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this afternoon and presented him with their proposal to set up a unity government. The prime minister told them he does not reject any proposal, especially not one for a unity government, but that the question is whether it is feasible. Mr. Shamir promised to give them an answer after he confers with the Likud negotiating team. It was agreed the Likud team will confer tomorrow with the NRP representatives. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports NRP Knesset members are to confer in 30 minutes with Labor Party leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin. Alignment figures, including Rabin confidantes, said that despite several reservations over the NRP proposal, it contains a basis for continued negotiations.

The NRP proposal goes as follows: the unity government will be based on the guidelines of the outgoing government and Israel's peace plan. The decisions on policy and security will be taken in the full Cabinet, and there will be no Inner Cabinet. Immediately after its establishment, the government will take action to conduct a debate within two months on the practical steps to be taken to continue the political process, and it will table a bill for Knesset elections within 100 days if the government is disbanded. The prime minister will invite all the Zionist and ultraorthodox parties to join the government or the coalition based on those guidelines.

SHAS on Narrow Government

TA0705175790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 7 May 90

[Excerpts] The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party this evening told Prime Minister Shamir that although it prefers a national unity government it will not prevent him from setting up a narrow government. The National Religious Party [NRP] today submitted to the prime minister and to the Labor Party leaders its draft agreement for another national unity government. Shamir promised the NRP an answer by tomorrow. The Labor Party is not happy with the clause dealing with the peace process. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Passage omitted] This evening the prime minister met the leaders of SHAS. Before the meeting, the SHAS delegation said they would still prefer a national unity government, but will not stop Shamir from forming a narrow one. This might mean that they would support his government in a vote of confidence, but would not join it. In any case, Shamir cannot present his narrow government until he is assured of the support of the NRP. Only if the NRP fails to persuade the two big parties to form a national unity government will it consider whether to support a narrow one.

The NRP Bureau is due to meet on Wednesday to consider this question. If the NRP does decide to support a narrow government, SHAS will then enter into negotiations with the Likud on a narrow government but with no prior commitment. This was stated a few minutes ago by Interior Minister Rabbi Arye Der'i as he and the other SHAS leaders emerged from the Prime Minister's Office.

Holocaust Ceremony Marks Knesset Summer Opening

Shamir, Others Address Session

TA0705144190

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1300 GMT and Jerusalem Domestic Service and Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1306 GMT on 7 May relay a live broadcast of the opening of the Knesset summer session. The opening ceremony is devoted to marking the 45th anniversary of the holocaust and the defeat of Nazi Germany. Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky, himself a holocaust survivor, presents the opening address, recalling his personal experience at Dachau and "vows that the Jewish people will never forget" the horrors.

President Hayim Herzog, holocaust survivors, those who fought for the partisans in Europe, and members of the diplomatic corps attend the session.

At 1317 GMT, Shilansky calls on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to address the house.

Shamir takes the podium and refers to the holocaust as the darkest days of the Jewish people, who achieved their redemption through the establishment of the State of Israel.

Shamir refers to the aid extended by the FRG to Israel after World War II and the political changes in the East bloc in recent years. He speaks about the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel by part of the East European bloc, which had severed these ties during the Six-Day War, and the renewal of emigration, especially from the USSR. The negative aspect of glasnost is the rise of anti-Semitism in East Europe, which accompanied the rise of nationalism, Shamir adds.

Shamir states a strong Israel is the main guarantee of the future of the Jewish people. "Our enemies in the Arab world know that, and that is the reason for their campaign against aliyah to Israel," Shamir states. Shamir says there is only one way for friends, both individuals and nations, to atone for what was done to the Jewish people, and that is "to help make Israel strong and steadfast."

Shamir is followed by Alignment Knesset [MK] Member Shevah Weiss and Agudat Yisra'el MK Avraham Verdiger, both holocaust survivors.

The opening ceremony ends at 1355 GMT with the singing of the national anthem. Jerusalem Television and Jerusalem Domestic end their live coverage at this time.

At 1400 GMT, Tel Aviv IDF Radio reports the Knesset will reconvene this evening when Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will deliver a "political address," and will be followed by Alignment Chairman Shim'on Peres.

Arens Comments on U.S. Relations

TA0705165690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] In a political speech before the Knesset after the ceremony opening its summer session, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said this afternoon that whoever wants a political process must not leave the key to the process in the hands of the PLO. Speaking to the PLO, Arens said, necessarily leads to neutralizing the chances for free elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Arens also referred to relations with the United States.

[Begin recording] There is no hiding the fact there are disagreements between the U.S. Government and Israel's Government. We do not always see eye to eye on the way to promote the peace process in the Middle East. As is well known, the basic U.S. positions on the issue—although more comfortable to us than views held by other countries—are still different from those held by the majority of the people in Israel. Disagreements between friends are natural, and they should be viewed in the broad context of the relations between the United States and Israel. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 7 May carries a similar report by Knesset affairs correspondent Ze'ev Kohen on Arens' address. Referring to the U.S.-PLO dialogue, Arens says: "We believe talking to terrorists who are still engaged in terror does not correspond with the values we share with the United States, and it certainly cannot aid promotion of the peace process."

The report adds Arens said that particularly after Egypt regained its position as a leader of the Arab world, "Israel is expecting Egypt to bring the rest of the Arab countries to the table of direct negotiations for peace with Israel. Israel is expecting Egypt to voice its reservations about the expressions of hate and the desire to destroy Israel by Arab countries' leaders, and condemn the calls for war coming from the Arab world."

In his address, Arens also accused the Alignment of attempts to foil the peace initiative "by signaling to the United States that its efforts are not needed; and worst of all by stating their willingness to incorporate the Arab residents of East Jerusalem in the elections."]

Arens on Arab, USSR Ties

TA0805045590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 8 May 90

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says over the past year, Israel has tried both overtly and privately to bring Arab states to the negotiating table. In a foreign policy address to the Knesset yesterday, Arens blamed the Labor Party and the PLO for the stalemate in the peace process. More from reporter David Ze'ev:

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says the efforts to persuade Arab countries to open direct talks with Israel have been made through Washington and Cairo, but until now have produced no results. One year after Israel presented its peace initiative, the Palestinians in the territories still have yet to have their elections. The reasons, according to the foreign minister, include the threat on the local Arab population of terrorism by the PLO, who, Arens said, have appointed themselves leaders of the Palestinian people. The foreign minister also blamed the attacks within the old government, a clear reference, of course, to the Labor Party. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister used the theme of the day, the defeat of the Nazis, to summarize how East European countries have recently renewed ties with Israel, from Hungary to Czechoslovakia, Poland, and most recently Bulgaria. Talks with East Germany will soon be resumed. But he said he is not satisfied with the progress of the talks with the Soviet Union, even as Israel fights the Arab campaign against Soviet Jewish immigration with a public relations blitz of its own around the world.

Vessel 'Got Too Close' to King Husayn's Yacht

TA0705192990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 May 90

[Excerpts] The Navy does not intend to change the operational use of its Coast Guard vessels in the Gulf of Elat. The investigation into the incident between the Israeli Dabur vessel and King Husayn's yacht shows the firing procedure was maintained, but the Dabur got too close to the yacht. Our correspondent says the Navy does not view the meeting between the Dabur and the yacht as an extraordinary incident. Our army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky was on the deck of a Dabur vessel in the Gulf of Elat.

When a Dabur enters the Gulf of Elat or any other location on an operational mission, it must test its weapons. This means firing its two 20-mm cannons, on the bow gun and the stern. That is exactly what happened on the day when a Dabur met up with King Husayn's yacht. [video shows Dabur firing two shells into the horizon] This morning the yacht was docked at a jetty near the king's home at the port of Aqaba. The Dabur docked here is meant to prevent tourists from crossing into Jordan and vice versa and to permit the thousands of tourists a peaceful holiday. [passage omitted]

There are no incidents here. That was what happened on Friday, or almost. A Navy vessel sailed into the Red Sea. Before cruising south, it tested its weapons. According to the report, no foreign vessel was seen in the distance. [passage omitted] The king's yacht and his Coast Guard vessel were about 1 km east of the Dabur after it already had concluded testing its weapons. The Jordanian vessels continued sailing closer to the Dabur and crossed in front of the Dabur from the south. Only then did the Dabur begin to close on them. It came as near as 100 meters from the king's yacht and even photographed Husayn. There is no need to mention this is not operational procedure. The soldiers were not in battle positions and the cannons were unmanned at that stage, but the Jordanians felt threatened.

The investigation showed that most of the safety procedures were implemented. The Navy vessel did not fire in the direction of the king's yacht and the Jordanian monarch's vessel was not really threatened, but had more discretion been shown, the superfluous incident could easily have been avoided, thereby perhaps preventing the entire affair.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] said the king knows we do not have any intention of harming or even of threatening him. That is most likely true, but the king is ill at ease these days, and there is no need to give him needless worries.

Defense Ministry Confirms Arms Sale to Antigua

TA0705143990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] The Defense Ministry has confirmed reports on the supply to Antigua of 400 Galil rifles and 100 Uzi submachine guns. The weapons were supplied approximately a year ago. The Defense Ministry spokesman explained the sale was made according to all procedures the defense establishment normally follows.

Replying to a question by our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller, the spokesman said the defense establishment has no knowledge of the involvement of the Hod Hahanit Company or Ya'ir Klein in the affair. The spokesman pointed out Ya'ir Klein had operated in Latin America without license from the Defense Ministry, and that the police are investigating his activities.

Emergency Plan 'To Drastically Cut' Water Supply

TA0605131190 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 May 90 p 7

[By Avraham Dishon]

[Excerpt] The Water Commission is drafting a national emergency program to drastically cut water supplies.

Initially, special emphasis will be put on cutting consumption in the urban sector: Stiff restrictions will be imposed on irrigating gardens and lawns, and steep fines will be levied on consumers who exceed their water quotas, currently amounting to 75 cubic meters to a four-member family.

To encourage saving, special gadgets to regulate home consumption will be sold to consumers at accessible prices.

According to the program, more use will be made of water treatment plants to process sewage water for agricultural purposes, and the number of aboveground water reservoirs to capture flood water will be increased.

At a later stage, the national emergency program also will be enforced on the agricultural sector, the largest water consumer. Special quotas will be determined for harvests consuming large quantities of water, such as cotton and wheat.

The emergency program comes in the wake of the serious water shortage currently afflicting the country, which was caused by the overpumping of Israel's groundwater reserves.

Water Commission officials contend this year's water reserves are at the lowest level ever experienced by the State of Israel. The water level at Lake Tiberias, 211.35 meters, is also the lowest ever registered. The water level has continued to drop, although pumping was stopped from Lake Tiberias. [passage omitted]

Consultations Continue on Convening Arab Summit

Addressed in Mubarak Message

JN0605181490 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received a message from his brother His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The message was conveyed by Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, who arrived in Amman this morning. The message deals with the current Arab situation, as well as preparations under way for the convening of an Arab summit to discuss the dangers facing the Arab homeland and nation.

King, Saudi Crown Prince Confer

JN0705154490 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 7 May 90

[Excerpt] Amman, 7 May (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn met with His Highness Saudi Arabian Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz, first deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, immediately after he arrived in Amman this afternoon in the course of an Arab tour within the framework of preparations for and consultations on an Arab summit.

Attending the meeting were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; His Highness Prince Faysal Bin-al-Husayn; and the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and his majesty's political adviser. [passage omitted]

Continue Talks

JN0705192290 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] His majesty the king held talks at al-Hashimiyah Palace this evening with Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. Attending the meeting were Chief of the Royal Court al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Deputy Commander of the Saudi National Guard Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, and the Saudi ambassador in Amman. The conferees asserted the importance of an Arab summit. They noted that preparations are under way to convene the summit and that Saudi Arabia is making enormous efforts to create a unified Arab stand toward the dangers threatening Arab national security and the Arab order.

Husayn Stresses Baghdad as Site

JN0705184090 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has stressed the importance of holding the emergency Arab summit, which is scheduled for Baghdad this month. In a statement to a JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent, he said the challenges facing the Arab nation at present make it incumbent upon the Arab leaders to meet in order to discuss ways to avert the dangers facing the Arab nation. His majesty added that pan-Arab security will be a principal topic on the agenda of the forthcoming summit, especially since the current challenges endanger overall Arab security.

His Majesty King Husayn dwelt on his recent talks with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and said they dealt with the current Arab situation and the ways to boost Arab solidarity. He noted that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan are in the forefront of those eager to bolster Arab solidarity and achieve Arab accord and understanding on solid ground aimed at serving all Arabs.

Replying to a question, His Majesty King Husayn stressed that the summit will be held in Baghdad and there is no intention to transfer the conference to another place. He added he has no knowledge of a five-way summit among some Arab leaders.

In answer to another question, his majesty said he hoped a reconciliatory meeting would soon be held between the brother officials in Iraq and Syria.

Concluding, His Majesty King Husayn stressed the need to make the forthcoming Arab summit a success in the interest of the Arab individual now and in the future.

King Receives YAR, PDRY Ministers, Message

JN0605182090 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, information minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], at the al-Nadwah Palace this evening. They handed his majesty a message from the Yemeni leadership on the preparations for the declaration of the Republic of Yemen and on the latest developments in the Arab arena. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Hashemite Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, the YAR ambassador in Amman, and the PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

Our correspondent for political affairs, Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, conducted the following interview with the two Yemeni ministers:

[Begin video recording] [Dhiyab] Dr. al-Iryani, you have met with his majesty the king and conveyed a message from the Yemeni leadership. What are the message and tour about?

[Al-Iryani] The message deals with preparation for the declaration of the Republic of Yemen as well as the preparations for the next Arab summit. It is also part of consultations concerning developments in the Arab homeland. We are now heading for Baghdad to continue consultations on the same topics.

[Dhiyab] Your excellency the minister, when will the Republic of Yemen be declared?

[Jarhum] In fact, all constitutional and procedural arrangements for the declaration of the Republic of Yemen are about to be finished. We hope this will take place soon, God willing.

[Dhiyab] Thank you. [end recording]

The YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister and the PDRY information minister were welcomed upon arrival in Amman and seen off upon departure by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the YAR ambassador in Amman, and the PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

Minister Denies West Bank Awqaf Council Dissolved

JN0705071090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 May 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—PETRA—Commenting on the reported dissolution of the Awqaf [Islamic trusts] Council in the West Bank, His Eminence Dr. 'Ali al-Faqir, minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs and holy places, declared that no change has occurred in the Awqaf Council in the West Bank and that it will continue without any change until the end of its term. He said the misunderstanding seems to have occurred over the Council of the al-Da'wah and Principles of Jurisprudence College, which was dissolved following the resignation of some of its members and which was replaced by a new council. However, the minister added, there is no change in the status of the Awqaf Council.

CBJ Official Dismisses Dinar Devaluation Rumors

JN0605154890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Amman, 6 May (PETRA)—In answer to a question by the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY regarding its observation that the exchange rates of the U.S. dollar on the unofficial market and in banks have recently begun to rise slightly, Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], said: The CBJ has noticed that. The CBJ has also noticed that there are a number of cheap and tendentious rumors which are mostly made up by dealers in the unofficial markets. Some of these rumors say that the trend is to reduce the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate, that talks with foreign creditors are faltering, and that Jordan's reserves may come under new pressures.

Dr. al-Nabulsi stressed that, apparently, these rumors aim to create incorrect impressions with the purpose of sowing confusion and creating a run on foreign currencies and consequent speculation.

He also said: The CBJ stresses that all these tendentious falsehoods are baseless part and parcel. The CBJ notes that its reserves have grown and that it is able to answer all requests for foreign currency to import tangible goods and intangible services and to repay its foreign obligations. It also points out that the U.S. dollar's exchange rate has sharply dropped on the international markets and the rates given by the CBJ bulletin have shown this drop. All this indicates there is the possibility of a drop, not an increase, in the U.S. dollar's exchange rate.

The CBJ governor called for caution and awareness in face of these rumors, and said it was necessary to fight them with all means available. He stressed that buying foreign currencies at prices higher than those specified by the CBJ may result in heavy, unjustified losses for those dealing in them.

He also said that the CBJ is strongly committed to the policy of stabilizing the exchange rate of foreign currencies and that any rumor connected to the devaluation of the dinar, and any other rumors, are only based on sick illusions in the minds of those who market them.

Further Reportage on Efforts To Release Hostages

Al-Musawi: Issue 'Deadlocked'

NC0805111890 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1045 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, has predicted the current year will not be the year in which the issue of the hostages in Lebanon will be solved. Al-Musawi told our radio this matter has become a very complicated one due to the negative U.S. positions.

Al-Musawi said the positive signs that followed the release of two U.S. hostages have faded. He answered a question by saying the issue of the hostages will be deadlocked for awhile, noting that those parties with influence in this issue, particularly Iran, have declined to continue their efforts pending the emergence of positive signs in the West that allow for resumption of these efforts.

However, Al-Musawi did not rule out the possibility that the United States will pressure Israel to release the prisoners it is holding, a development he said will reflect positively on resolving the hostage issue only if it leads to actual results.

U.S.-Iranian 'Negotiations'

NC0805084890 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 7 May 90 p 5

[Text] Despite the U.S. Administration's negative statements following the release of two American hostages, which responsible Iranian sources have responded to, informed sources have asserted negotiations are under way in a European capital between officials from Washington and Tehran on freeing more hostages.

These negotiations are taking place along with other discussions in Geneva between U.S. and Iranian delegations on the Iranian funds seized in the United States.

The negotiations on both the financial and political levels are being conducted in parallel, with each step of progress concerning the hostages coinciding with a step forward on the financial level.

According to the reports, with the release of the last hostage held in Lebanon the two delegations in Geneva will have concluded their agreement and begun discussions of how to restore political and diplomatic relations between the two countries.

FRC Welcomes Proposal

NC0705112090 Paris AFP in English 1105 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Beirut, May 7 (AFP)—The Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) of extremist Palestinian leader Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] on Monday welcomed a proposal by a Belgian prison director for the early release from jail of one of its members.

"The release of our comrade is a condition to close the file on the hostages of the Silco," FRC spokesman Walid Khalid said here in reference to four Belgian nationals held by his group for at least two years.

Hailing the remarks as "positive", Mr. Khalid said he hoped the Belgian authorities would heed the call of the prison director and "immediately" set free Mr. Nasir.

The four Belgians were among eight French and Belgian hostages seized by the FRC in the southeastern Mediterranean from the Silco yacht.

The FRC has released five people, including one Belgian, in two separate operations, the most recent on April 10.

But the FRC then said the release of the remaining four hostages hinged on a decision by the Belgian authorities to set free Sa'id Nasir, serving a life sentence in Louvain, near Brussels, for an attack against a synagogue that left one child dead.

The prison's director said Sunday that Mr. Nasir could under the law be freed in July or even earlier for good behaviour and that he had recommended the early release.

But he stressed that his proposal had nothing to do with the FRC's demands.

Frenchman Reportedly Disappears in West Beirut

NC0705193390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] AFP, citing a security source, has reported a French lawyer named (Marcel) [name indistinct] disappeared in West Beirut on 30 April. He was last seen at the Bristol Hotel. The agency cited one of the hotel managers as saying the Frenchman arrived at the Bristol Hotel on 30 April and has not been heard from since.

Al-Hirawi Sees 'Plot' for Settling Palestinians

NC0505151990 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stated the ongoing wars are between members of the same sects, not between the sects. He said what is going on in the eastern areas is merely a charade, and vowed to use force to suppress any partitionist state declared by Michel 'Awn.

President al-Hirawi warned against the immigration of Soviet Jews into the occupied territories, noting this could lead to the settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon. In remarks to the press published today, President al-Hirawi said the influx of Soviet Jews is particularly serious for Lebanon, which is the target of a plot to replace the Lebanese who are leaving the country with Palestinians. He noted Lebanon is the target of this plot because it is the weakest country in the Arab world.

President al-Hirawi emphasized Lebanon has not received any assistance for its reconstruction from the

Arab states. He said the continued violence does not encourage the Arab brothers to send assistance.

Overnight Clashes, Israeli Flights in Sidon Area

NC0805095490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Extreme tension prevails along the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir combat lines following fierce night clashes involving various types of weapons. The fighting coincided with overflights by Israeli warplanes, which dropped flares over the areas of Sidon and the camps.

Meanwhile, exchanges of machine gun and sporadic rocket fire are taking place in Iqlim al-Tuffah between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

Cease-Fire in East Collapses; Clashes Continue

West Beirut Hit

NC0705134590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] The security situation flared up in the eastern area this afternoon. Intermittent shellfire is being exchanged in upper Kasrawan, northern al-Matn, and on the al-Ashrafiyah-Sinn al-Fil combat line. Some shells have fallen on areas in West Beirut and the Southern Suburb, especially the areas of Sfayr and al-Basta. Two citizens were killed in the shelling.

Meanwhile, Captain Pierre Ghawi of the Internal Security Forces was killed in sniper fire on the Museum-al-Barbir crossing this afternoon. [At 1310 GMT on 7 May Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic also reports: "'Awn's gunmen are continuing their bombardment of Kasrawan's central and coastal areas. A short while ago, they began bombarding the periphery of Bkirki.

Residential areas in al-Ashrafiyah, al-Dawrah, and all other areas in East Beirut are coming under attack. Meanwhile, clashes are raging along the newly created combat lines in the capital. Heavy caliber weapons, including tank artillery, RPG's, 12.7-mm machine guns, and antiaircraft fire, are being used in the attacks."]

'Third Cease-Fire' Reached

NC0705142290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1406 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Mediation Committee member Abbot Bulus Nu'man has stated a third cease-fire agreement has been reached following intensive contacts. Abbot Nu'man warned against violating this cease-fire, emphasizing he has obtained firm guarantees from the two parties to abide by this agreement. He asserted an exchange of shelling will only harm innocent citizens and their property. He said he does not see any justification for this sudden escalation.

The first cease-fire agreement was reached at 1500 and the second at 1600, but were not respected by 'Awn's gunmen.

Bombardments Continue

NC0705153590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1519 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Despite three cease-fire agreements at 1500, 1600, and 1730 today, 'Awn gunmen continue to bombard the coastal and central Kasrawan areas, as well as al-Ashrafiyah and the Beirut port periphery. Meanwhile, intermittent clashes are raging along the Nahr al-Mawt, Museum, Sinn al-Fil, al-'Adliyah, and al-Ashrafiyah combat lines. Flat-trajectory and mortar weapons are being used in the fighting. A number of fires have broken out in al-Ashrafiyah.

Casualties Reported

NC0805063890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Calm prevails on all combat lines in the eastern areas after a sudden six-hour flare-up yesterday that caused many deaths and injuries. The destructive incendiary projectiles which struck homes, cars, and shops caused grave material damage.

Despite the announcement of a serious commitment to a cease-fire at 2030 yesterday, intermittent shelling took place just before midnight last night and at dawn today, directed at the positions of the Lebanese Forces. The Lebanese Forces continued to observe the cease-fire.

Al-Qulay'at came under shellfire at 0330 today, and several shells fell on Kasrawan Coast at 2300 yesterday. Meanwhile, bursts of medium-caliber weapon fire was heard on some combat lines in Beirut and its eastern suburbs.

The sudden six-hour outbreak of fighting yesterday afternoon left 20 people dead and more than 40 injured, including two dead and six wounded in West Beirut. The rest of the casualties occurred in East Beirut, according to a preliminary count.

Three cease-fire agreements came to nothing yesterday before they could be implemented. A fourth agreement went into force at 2030 yesterday after efforts by mediation committee member Abbot Bulus Nu'man and the joint security committee.

Group Claims Attack on 'Awn Forces in Ba'bda

NC0705200590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] The Honor, Sacrifice, and Loyalty Organization has issued communique No. 6, in which it indicated one of the group's units in B'abda blew up an armored car belonging to Battalion 88, which was stationed near the B'abda government hospital on the night of 6-7 May.

The communique emphasized the armored car was destroyed and two of 'Awn's gunmen were killed and three wounded in the explosion.

The group declared it no longer will be satisfied with blowing up vehicles and military equipment, but will carry out other operations. The group warned Michel 'Awn the hand of justice, which is present in B'abda, sooner or later will reach him.

Further Reportage on Amal, Hizballah Fighting

Sources on Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC0705154390 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Guarded calm prevails in Iqlim al-Tuffah, interrupted by sporadic sniper fire.

A responsible official in the Amal Movement in the south has accused Hizballah of shelling the villages of Humin al-Fawqa, Jarju', and Sarba with 120-mm and 82-mm mortars last night and this morning. Zayn Shahrur of al-Duwayr township was killed, two other citizens were wounded, and several homes were damaged.

A Hizballah media source stated his party still respects the cease-fire, despite the Amal Movement's attacks on villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday. The source said: Despite the agreement on the Southern Suburb, Amal gunmen today established a mobile roadblock near the al-Najah school in al-Shayah and another in the vicinity of the Riyadh al-Sulh palace, near the Henry Shihab barracks. Amal gunmen opened fire on a car carrying three Hizballah members as it was passing through the area. All three were wounded, one of them critically.

Four Killed 8 May

NC0805092090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes are taking place between the Amal Movement and Hizballah along the combat lines of Iqlim al-Tuffah.

According to REUTER, fierce fighting between the two sides last night left four dead and six wounded.

In another development, tension is high in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp near Sidon, where a large number of armed men are to be seen on most of the camp's streets. According to security sources, the tension came about after Fatah Movement official Major Jamal Sulayman refused an order suspending his activity and cutting the salaries of his men.

One 'Terrorist' Killed, One Captured by SLA

TA0705144590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] One terrorist was killed and another was captured this afternoon in a clash with an SLA [South Lebanese Army] unit in southern Lebanon. An SLA soldier was injured. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports the terrorist squad fired RPG's and automatic gunfire at an SLA position near the village of Bayt Yahun. The SLA troops returned fire and pursued the terrorists. One terrorist was killed and another captured. The terrorists belonged to the Syrian National Party [as heard]. This is the organization's second operation in southern Lebanon in a month.

Lahd Sets Condition for Detainees' Release

NC0705170290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander Major General Antoine Lahd has emphasized none of the detainees held in the al-Khiyam prison will be released until the Israeli soldiers and SLA members detained in Lebanon are freed. Maj. Gen. Lahd added that when the media clamor linking the issue of foreign hostages to that of the al-Khiyam detainees is over, procedures for the release of the detainees will resume as before.

Al-Asad Interviewed by Egyptian Newspaper Editors

JN0705130690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 7 May 90

[Interview with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad by chief editors of Egyptian newspapers, in Damascus; date not given—read by announcer]

Question: Discussions between you and President Mubarak dealt with many subjects such as bilateral relations, Arab relations, and mediation between Iraq and Syria. We would like you to shed some light on what took place and the results that emerged during these talks.

The president: Our discussions focused on deepening mutual understanding on many topics and returning bilateral relations to their original status.

Concerning bilateral relations, the course we have taken is to cooperate comprehensively in all fields. The brothers in the Syrian and Egyptian delegations are studying ways to implement this trend. Discussions were held earlier by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi when he visited Syria. He and his Syrian counterpart drew up a working paper from which they agreed to proceed, and this is now being discussed by the two delegations.

Concerning Arab relations, both President Husni Mubarak and I have indicated our concern, on many occasions, regarding effective Arab solidarity and the need to rise—and we must be able to do that—above trivialities to place ourselves and our nation in a situation where we can adapt to contemporary developments and be able to deal with the changes taking place in our world today. Our discussions concerning this subject were very detailed. In such discussions, one undoubtedly touches on the topic of countries and rulers, and this is the direction of both Syria and Egypt. We proceeded from this point in our Tobruk meeting and continued the same line. This issue needs continuous effort and one meeting is not enough. We realize that the road is long and filled with obstacles, and we believe that we should continue confronting these obstacles in order to surmount them.

Concerning Iraq, President Husni Mubarak affirmed once again his concern over good relations between Syria and Iraq. He emphasized this concern at our Tobruk meeting and again at our meeting in Syria. Nevertheless, President Mubarak and I, and perhaps most if not all of our Arab brothers, realize that the rift between Syria and Iraq—and I am sorry to have to say this—is wide, and bridging it needs much time and effort. These factors along with others, such as the passage of time, might help to bring about a change for the better. However, the issue is not within reach at this time.

Question: In this area, could you be more specific regarding these obstacles, particularly since the Arab nation is facing dangers that cannot tolerate further delay?

The president: If I were to go into detail, I would need a long time. One could say that our opinions on many of the proposed political subjects in the Arab and international arenas do not coincide, but conflict in most cases. There is a contradiction between our understanding of these issues in Syria and their understanding in Iraq. Our points of agreement are so few that they are almost non-existent. I believe this clarifies the state we are in.

Question: Mr. President, you have recently returned from the Soviet Union where the world has been observing great changes. In light of these changes, what is your impression of your meetings in the Soviet Union? It is claimed that these changes are in Israel's favor, when in actual fact the more correct way of seeing them is that Israel has taken advantage of these changes more effectively than the Arab countries have. It has gained Soviet emigrants, restored relations, and received reparations. Could you tell us about your trip to the Soviet Union?

The president: The visit in general was good, and this was reflected in the statement transmitted by TASS. Every country can determine its own affairs. And we, the Arabs—although we are one nation—believe that every Arab country can practice as it wishes, particularly in regard to its internal affairs as well as in the area of foreign affairs. We should, however, take into consideration general Arab interests.

The USSR is a superpower that has its own views at this stage with regard to internal developments and their repercussion on foreign relations. In other words, they have their own criteria in the drafting of overall internal policies and their repercussions on foreign policy. I do not believe that the USSR means to harm the Arabs in following this path, because it has no interest in doing so; it is not a traditional enemy of the Arabs. When the Soviet leaders applied perestroyka, their basic criterion was not what repercussions it would have on the Arabs, either negative or positive. This is natural because no one expects the USSR to determine its internal and foreign affairs in light of Arab interests only.

If Israel largely exploited the changes in Eastern Europe and benefitted from them, this does not mean that the USSR has changed its policy from being our supporter to being the supporter of our enemy. This did not happen at all. The Soviet leaders so declared on many occasions. This was also stressed when I met with them in Moscow. They emphasized their sympathy and continuous support for Syria and the Arab countries, as well as their continued support for the Arab liberation movement. They noted Israel's hostility and their concern over Israel's nuclear armament. They also reiterated that they would continue to support their previous stand in favor of the restoration of the occupied Arab territory and the Arab Palestinian people's rights.

The Soviets also reaffirmed their rejection of the allegation circulating in the Arab homeland of Soviet-U.S. collusion in the Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territory. They reiterated this stance in the statement transmitted by TASS which says that Soviet Jewish emigration must be viewed as an existing problem that

infringes on Arab rights and that this problem must be studied again so that not only human rights in general, but Arab rights in particular are taken into consideration. The statement adds that I presented ideas to solve this problem and that President Gorbachev declared that the issue had to be reexamined in light of Arab rights.

People at first used the pretext of human rights as an excuse for this emigration, and consequently, an excuse for the occupation of Arab territory, for Israeli expansion in this territory, and for the settlement of these immigrants in the occupied territory. Meanwhile, no one spoke about the Arab people's rights. Now, however, the USSR has asserted that it will discuss this issue in light of basic Arab rights; that is, Arab rights are not separate from human rights. I am confident that the USSR will carry out what it has said.

Question: The Soviet Jews are settling in the occupied Arab territory despite all the USSR's criticism and despite all Israeli promises that it would not settle them there. How can this process be monitored in the long run and how reliable are current Soviet statements?

The president: We would be naive to accept what the Israelis or others say, that the Soviet Jews who immigrated or who will immigrate to Palestine will not settle in the occupied Arab territory. This matter is different from the one I previously discussed. This depends on the Arabs. We should work on more than one line, on a number of parallel lines. We should build on many levels and wage an intensive political struggle with plans, programs, and approaches that we believe in and are convinced of. Depending on our actions and effectiveness we can prevent the settlement of Jewish immigrants from the USSR and elsewhere on our Arab territory. We can also regain our occupied territory and fortify our will, independence, and interests in the near and remote future.

Question: Reports in the West say that the Soviet Union informed your excellency that it could not help Syria attain strategic parity in weapons with Israel. Is this true?

The president: I have heard no such talk from any Soviet official in my entire life. I heard no such talk during my recent visit or during past visits. I always read such things in the Western and other foreign press. We cannot keep on denying every word or report Arab or foreign papers publish.

Question: Is the opposite true?

The president: Strategic parity depends on our convictions and will. We depend on the Soviet Union, a friendly country, to supply us with weapons. The Soviet Union provides us and other fraternal Arab countries with important military aid. The Soviet Union has done so for many years. We cannot deny this; it would not be permissible for us to deny this and we have no interest in doing so. Loyalty is an Arab trait and loyalty dictates that we do not deny the Soviet support. We always discussed matters with our Soviet friends and we never denied that the Soviet Union was providing us with aid. Sometimes we Arabs exceed our bounds or our rights by blaming others, or having them shoulder more than they should. The cause is ours and the land is ours and we should shoulder the basic burdens. Our friends have an interest in helping us regain our land and rights, but the interest is primarily ours.

We in Syria have spoken a lot about strategic parity. As we see it, strategic parity is not only parity in weapons. It does not mean that we should have a tank for each Israeli tank, and a plane for each plane, and a rifle for each rifle. Weapons are one of the basic pillars of strategic parity. Strategic parity is composed of many elements. Before parity in weapons, it is parity in the cultural, economic, and political fields as well. By political parity, I mean the basic political structures we should establish so that we may achieve the hoped-for victory.

Strategic parity means parity in all walks of life. I can say that the most important pillar is not military. Strategic parity is an important factor in the attainment of other pillars. We saw several elements of this parity during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. New unexpected elements of parity have emerged in Lebanon. For the first time in the history of the conflict, Israel retreated under military or semi-military pressure. The determination to fight and to die embodied in the struggle of Arab citizens in general, including Egyptian citizens, have made Israel retreat. I can recall here the name of martyr 'Ali Tulbah Hasan as an example.

When a nation possesses tens of thousands or millions who are ready for martyrdom for the sake of the homeland, then this constitutes one of the most important elements of the strategic parity we seek. The Israeli and NATO forces which came to Lebanon left it in a manner they had not anticipated thanks to the activities of ordinary citizens who were armed with faith and with determination to gain martyrdom. You remember that in one of his statements at the onset of the invasion of Lebanon, Begin told the Israelis that he guaranteed them peace for 40 years. But it became clear that he did not guarantee peace for Israel either for 40 years or for 40 days. Operations against Israel and its agents continue to this day.

I mention all this to assert that there are some elements we have used in the past, while there are others we have not yet tried. These elements are essential if we are to achieve strategic parity and can have a great impact on the objectives that this parity seeks to achieve. This does not mean that I am belittling the importance of weapons. Weapons alone mean nothing if they are not combined with the other elements that constitute strategic parity. Weapons should be combined with determination, will, the awareness of the importance of the battle, the danger posed by the enemy, and the identity of the enemy. If there is no culture backing weapons, then weapons will not achieve the objective. We should work for this objective. The more we effectively use these elements the more we achieve strategic parity.

In light of what we have understood so far, I would like to reiterate that the Soviet Union did not change its course of cooperating with Syria. You have read in the TASS communique that the Soviet Union will help Syria to modernize its Armed Forces. The Syrian Armed Forces are of course modern forces, but there are always new discoveries to consider.

Question: When will your excellency visit Cairo? What is the role that can be played by Syria and Egypt in closing Arab ranks?

The president: We in Syria and Egypt aspire to achieve the best possible Arab solidarity. There is a long road ahead of us and efforts need to be made. Bringing Arab leaders closer to each other and coming to a unified conviction requires efforts. The cooperation of Syria and Egypt can push this process forward in an appropriate manner. Regarding my visit to Cairo, there is no problem. We—President Mubarak and I—have discussed the visit and I may visit Cairo any time, or it could be Alexandria.

Question: Preparations are under way for the new Syrian People's Assembly elections. We heard that several thousand are running, and this underscores the vitality of the election campaign. To what extent can the democratic movement in Syria be explored in light of the People's Assembly elections?

The president: Democracy is a loose term, and there is no common understanding of democracy. We in Syria do not agree with the traditional understanding prevalent in many states, especially in the Western world. Democracy does not merely mean elections or forming a people's assembly or a parliament.

Every country has its own characteristics. What applies to other countries may not apply to Syria. Syria has never been a duplicate of other countries. We have our own situation in terms of being part of a nation with which we share influence; in terms of the economic, cultural, and political levels we have reached; in terms of an aggression that we are being subjected to; as well as other circumstances.

We have been practicing democracy for some time. We had an experience similar to this year's elections when the first legislative council was elected after 1970.

We understand people to be identified with their organizations. However, this does not mean that citizens not affiliated with organizations have no role or rights. They have the same rights as others. However, the history of mankind confirms that the real instigators of the actions of nations in both peace and war have been their organizations. If we take Syria, Egypt, and Algeria as examples, we find that the organized forces have been the ones to lead the struggle against the occupiers and the ones that eventually led the way to independence.

In the field of political action, we have since 1970 contacted the parties existing in Syria. They are old parties. We have formed the National Progressive Front [NPF] through a free dialogue. Since then, cooperation has been active among these parties regarding all major domestic and foreign public issues.

These parties, combined, have confronted all pressures that we have been subjected to, including the pressures of the Israeli occupation. We waged the October war within the framework of a national unity based on the NPF, which also included new parties.

No matter how well-planned our actions, errors always occur in their execution. However, this does not mean that we surrender to failure. We should always be prepared to struggle against any mistake.

Prior to elections, the NPF parties in the past agreed among themselves on election procedures, the plan, and the share of each party. The role of citizens not affiliated with parties has been the focus of attention. I believe every Syrian citizen should have a role in the NPF. To achieve this objective, we had to use our heads and find solutions. We later added the Workers Federation, the Peasants Federation, and the Youth Federation to the NPF. We continue to feel that more development should be achieved.

In the People's Assembly, whose term has expired, the members who do not belong to any party numbered 36 out of 195. But the independents will constitute one third of the new Assembly. Those who are affiliated with parties exercise their freedom of choice through their parties. When a party nominates a member to the People's Assembly, that member usually expresses the views of the other party members who entered the party voluntarily, accepted the party's bylaws, and elected its leaders. Therefore, attention has always focused on how to provide freedom of expression to the independents.

One plan was that the Front include a number of qualified independents in its list. But time proved that this was not the best formula because the citizens thought that the independent who was included on the Front's list was the one who could win. This was true to a great extent. Therefore, we have decided in this session that no independent will be included on the Front's list. Thus, the competition will be stronger, and the independent will not feel that the Front supports or opposes him.

In line with other aspects of democracy, we in Syria have political pluralism and economic pluralism represented by the existence of the public sector, the private sector, and the joint sector. Since the seventies, we have been convinced of the soundness of our policy.

Question: Your Excellency the President, I would like to ask a question in three parts. The first is related to Lebanon and the current efforts to support the legitimate government in light of the al-Ta'if agreement. What will Syria do to support the legitimate government in Lebanon and to build a new Lebanon? The second question is: Have relations between Syria and the United States improved following the prominent Syrian role leading to the release

of the hostages? The third question is related to Syria's position on the call for an emergency Arab summit conference at the request of the PLO to work out a unified Arab position to deal with the new developments.

The president: During the Casablanca summit, the Arabs agreed to set up a committee on Lebanon. The committee was given wide-ranging powers. It also drew up a draft national agreement known as the al-Ta'if agreement. After the committee drew up the agreement, the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies met and cooperated to create a suitable atmosphere to enable the deputies to go to al-Ta'if to discuss the document, which was offered to them, not imposed. They made it the basis for their discussions, adding amendments and making changes until finally reaching the present document, whose final form is known as the national charter. Based on this document, the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies met and elected a president of the Republic. The president was assassinated and the Chamber of Deputies convened once again under difficult circumstances and elected a new president of Lebanon, Ilyas al-Hirawi. They also elected a speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. The president then formed a new Council of Ministers which won the confidence of the Chamber of Deputies. Thus, the institutions of the legitimate Lebanese Government and authority were established. As this document was drawn up by the committee set up by the Arab summit conference on a consensus basis, it was natural for the Arabs to support what they had unanimously decided. This is what happened without our brothers in Iraq.

Internationally, the agreement was also vigorously supported, and we can say that both international and Arab circles support it. Syria supports the legitimate government and the al-Ta'if agreement, just as the other Arab countries do. But Syria is a special case based on geographic and historical considerations. Syria will respond to decisions made by the legitimate Lebanese institutions.

The problem in Lebanon is that the majority of the Lebanese people support the legitimate government and only some people in the eastern area do not support it or the al-Ta'if agreement. These people do not include all those who live in the eastern area but only a part of the military establishment and the Lebanese Forces militia in the eastern area. Matters are not stable in these two groups, however, they do not constitute a material or a military problem. The legitimate government can decide the situation but there is a trend toward political action to decide the issue politically if possible. We support the desire of the legitimate government. We want Lebanon's territory and people to be independent and united. This is the position that we have always announced and asserted. We will not support any side in Lebanon unless it supports Lebanon's unity and the state's institutions.

Concerning the second part of the question, specifically the proposed Arab summit, I have read all relevant reports in the Arab press. When we met in Tobruk, we made statements stressing the importance of convening an Arab summit to look into international developments and changes around the world so that the summit could arrive at an evaluation beneficial to the Arab nation. We were then surprised by the call for the summit you are talking about. The custom has been for a call to be made for a summit and then consultations are held about general topics agreed by all parties concerned. Subsequently, agreement is reached on a venue for the summit. What happened, however, was that a call was made for the summit specifying two articles—the place and date. I think this is not the right way to go about it. The mistake may have been made unwittingly, but if it was committed knowingly, it is more serious than a simple mistake.

In any case, there still is room for consultations and discussions among all of us. It is important that there be goodwill. We want the summit to advance pan-Arab interests rather than the interests of our individual selves.

If the question concerns Syria's position on the call for the summit, if the situation remains the same, each country has the right to decide as it sees fit and decide in light of pan-Arab interests that dovetail with our national interests. Accordingly, Syria will not attend a conference if the only item on its agenda is the call for its convening—not on any level. Syria will not attend this summit, although Syria is in the forefront of advocates, if not the foremost advocate, of a summit.

And yet there is a general rule, and that is that a noncontroversial venue be agreed upon. Why stick to one place in particular if the objective is to advance pan-Arab interests? Let us agree on a place on which there is no disagreement.

Then the agenda was said to center on the Soviet Jewish immigration and on an anti-Arab campaign to the exclusion of other topics. I think these points fall short of representing the full range of what we want to discuss. I am not underrating them, but there should be more to the conference than these topics.

Question: What does his excellency the president think of Cairo—the Arab League headquarters—as an alternative venue?

The president: I do not want to propose a place lest I be misunderstood by some people. We have no objection to going directly to a summit whose venue has been agreed upon. All of you are aware of the condition of relations between Syria and Iraq which makes it impossible for us to attend the summit in Iraq. We are not saying no just for the sake of saying no nor out of intransigence. Objectively speaking, no Arab who is aware of the shape of relations between Syria and Iraq can imagine Syria attending a summit held in Iraq.

Question: Will Syria receive Yasir 'Arafat if he should come to discuss the matter?

The president: There is no point in discussing this matter with us. This is settled. However, this is one thing, and

for Yasir 'Arafat to come to Syria is another. Syria is an Arab country and there is no problem there.

Question: Let us go back to strategic parity. Moscow has been talking about the so-called balance of interests and about the prospect of ending regional problems through negotiations. In principle, we know that Syria is not against a peaceful settlement. Moreover, you said during your meeting with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter that you accepted an international conference and direct negotiations in the form of bilateral committees under the umbrella of this conference. We would like you to further clarify the Syrian viewpoint; that is, when will Syria be ready to enter the settlement process; what are the circumstances that might encourage Syria to do so; and what are the specifications of the peace process from the Syrian standpoint?

The president: I would like to say that some of the brothers in Egypt might not be following the Syrian stance with precision, for Syria's current stand is the same stand adopted in 1973. Carter did not say what has been attributed to him insofar as the statements I have read. I have read in some newspapers, for example, that Carter said Syria is willing to discuss demilitarizing the Golan. Carter did not say this. He did not say this to me. Neither did he say this in his statements in Israel. Carter was precise regarding the content of what he said. He did not come to Damascus to let me write for him what he wants to say or to tell him how he should say it. Carter did not talk about demilitarizing the Golan because he did not hear about this from anyone in Syria. Moreover, there was no talk of direct or indirect negotiation. Carter was only talking about the international conference. Direct negotiation is something different from the international conference. We have rejected direct negotiation in the past, and we reiterate our rejection of it in the present. Syria has not changed its stance. Syria accepted the international conference in 1973. There are two methods to work for peace: one is through direct negotiation, and the other is through the international conference. If we accept direct negotiation, then we do not need an international conference or any other procedures. However, we have rejected this method in the past, and we reject it now because we believe it does not serve our interests. On the contrary, it stirs up disputes among us Arabs as in the past. Direct negotiation leads to unilateral solutions or procedures which create grudges among us and, therefore, establishes neither stability nor a comprehensive peace in the region. The Arab-Israeli conflict, instead, will go on and disputes will continue. This is something that has been agreed upon, especially following the 1973 war. It was an Arab agreement. However, there have been some violations of this Arab agreement whose price all the Arabs have paid. Had Syria thought of its own interests only as its starting point, it would have, if we may say so, achieved a unilateral solution.

You know that Syria and Egypt have dealt with each other, held scores of joint meetings, and together planned the October war, which, for the first time in modern Arab history, was a major and successful action. If the two countries had not cooperated, this action would not have succeeded. You must have read what some Egyptian military and nonmilitary officials wrote in this respect. Through the words and lines of these writings, the reader can feel the sincere, delicate, and honest efforts exerted by the involved parties in the two countries to arrange for and launch the October war. What was achieved in Sinai and the Golan was successful thanks to the efforts of the two countries.

For its long-term interest, Israel favors the abandonment of the Golan and the conclusion of a separate deal with Syria. If Syria had been regionally oriented, it would have proceeded from its regional interests. But it did not, and will not do this. The Golan was originally occupied in a battle waged for the sake of Palestine, and so was Sinai.

During my latest meeting with a U.S. congressional delegation, they proposed that Syria make peace overtures. I told them that Syria supports peace, and that there exists an Arab decison accepting peace through the international conference, so why, I asked, do you want us piece by piece? The Arabs want peace, so let us propose a collective peace plan that truly leads to peace. It is misleading to Arabs when some say that Syria accepted direct negotiations.

You remember that the international conference held its first sessions in Geneva in 1973. Syria did not attend the conference, not because it was against it, but because President Anwar al-Sadat did not abide by the agreement we reached together that the disengagement of forces in Sinai and the Golan be reached and defined on maps before we go to Geneva. Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger failed to change our position although he was insistent. I did abide by my agreement with al-Sadat concerning his proposal to carry out the disengagement on both fronts at the same time, although I was not thinking of disengagement because I was of the view that either we reached a comprehensive peace or we continued the war. Al-Sadat did not abide by the agreement. He went alone to Geneva and had his separate plan.

As far as I am concerned, I view the territories of the western front from the same perspective as the territories of the Syrian front. Al-Sadat theoretically followed a joint plan, but in practice he adopted a unilateral plan. We, therefore, did not go to Geneva. Had we gone, the Egyptian and Syrian delegations would have appeared to be at odds instead of facing the Israeli delegation together. Had this happened, it would have been a tragedy because we had just come out of the war, and the soldiers were still engaged.

The idea of the conference remained unchanged, and Syria continued to support it. There is nothing new in this. The conference is not an Israeli one, and Israel does not want a conference at all because it does not want witnesses to its aggressive and expansionist plans. It wants to expand at present and in the future, and, based on a religious pronouncement, it seeks to build the

Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. The Zionists claim that if they do not take this land, they will not be implementing the teachings of their God.

These are real Israeli ambitions and we must not underestimate them. Who, for instance, believed in 1900 or even in 1930 that Israel would be as it is now? And here is Yitzhaq Shamir saying the great immigration requires a great Israel. To sum up, we support the international conference, and every single inch of our land must return to us. If there are indispensable measures, then these must apply equally to both sides. Syria does want peace, but it by no means can give up the Arab land or rights.

Discussions Continue on Proposed Arab Summit

Venue, Agenda Remain Unresolved

JN0705162790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1543 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 7 May (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi before noon today. They talked about Arab developments and current moves to convene an Arab summit.

Al-Shar' made it clear that during the Arab foreign ministers conference held in Tunis in March, Syria led the call for an Arab summit and emphasized the necessity of adequate preparation to assure its success. Syria is convinced there is a need to improve the general Arab situation and secure Arab solidarity to better address global changes in the interest of the objectives and rights of the Arab nation.

The minister stressed that the setting of the venue and agenda of the summit without prior consultation and the attendant bragging and irresponsible statements emanating from the capital that wants to hold the summit have created a negative atmosphere that only serves narrow personal interests rather than the objectives of our nation.

A number of Arab countries have for many years been under serious threats and virtual siege from known foreign powers and yet Syria has not resorted to such tactics by exploiting previous Arab summits.

The minister conveyed to the Arab League secretary general Syria's proposal for an emergency Arab League Council meeting at the foreign minister level at Arab League headquarters. Consultations among the sisterly Arab countries would discuss the appropriate date, venue, and agenda of the Arab summit, and would prepare studies and recommendations to be submitted to the summit.

Al-Asad Reiterates Position

JN0805084290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated last night, during talks on the Arab summit with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, that Syria will only attend the Arab summit after consultations that result in total agreement on the summit's agenda and venue. His excellency the president indicated that Syria's position in this regard is that the Arab summit must be held at an uncontroversial venue.

Editorial Stresses Preparation

JN0805095490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 May 90

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial headlined "An Arab Summit Away From Extemporization," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Several regional and international circumstances dictate that the Arabs now hold a summit to discuss issues as well as the grave threats that now appear on the map of confrontation with the nation's enemies. An Arab summit is also necessary to achieve the best formula for Arab solidarity so that Arabs will meet on solid ground to mobilize efforts and resources to foil enemy plots, build the Arab future, and bring pride and dignity to our Arab masses everywhere. This is Syria's view and stand which it announced during the recent Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis. Syria still adheres to this because the regional and international circumstances have not changed, and the dangers of confrontation with the nation's enemies still threaten us. At the same time, Syria has not changed its views on the summit, in particular that it must be provided with all elements of success through good preparation and extensive Arab consultations on the issues to be discussed by the Arab leaders and concerning the time and venue of the summit, which must harmonize with the circumstances and interests of all sides, as well as pan-Arab interests.

Al-BA'TH adds: On this basis, leader al-Asad made it clear to the Egyptian press that accompanied President Husni Mubarak on his recent visit to Damascus that we want a summit to serve the higher pan-Arab interests and aspirations.

In its editorial on the same subject, TISHRIN says: At the recent Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis, Syria was the first to call for a well-prepared and successful Arab summit. Syria still calls for an Arab summit. Through Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syria has proposed a foreign ministers' meeting at the Arab League's headquarters to hold consultations on the appropriate time and venue of the summit, to reach agreement on the topics to be discussed, and to prepare studies and recommendations to pave the way for their submission to the Arab leaders. However, holding a summit without consultations and without an agreement on the agenda, and turning the summit and solidarity from a strong Arab meeting into a mere show to serve narrow personal interests is rejected because it will produce negative results that will not be in favor of the Arab cause. Our nation's masses everywhere are looking for a true Arab meeting that will lead to effective Arab

solidarity, and consequently to a unified Arab stand and strategy to confront the grave dangers posed to the nation. In order to reach our Arab people's aspirations, we say that there is no alternative to holding consultations, exerting efforts, and crystallizing facts and bases that would lead to a successful Arab summit to achieve Arab strength and impregnability.

Vice President Khaddam Returns From Libya

JN0705133890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam returned to Damascus from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah this morning. Last night, he conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution, dealing with issues of common concern. Talks between the vice president and Col. al-Qadhdhafi dealt with the situation in the region and bilateral relations.

The vice president arrived in Tripoli last night on a brief working visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, member of the 1 September revolution leadership, led the welcoming delegation at the airport.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Appoints Kahliqyar New Prime Minister

LD0705160390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] The Presidential Press Office reports that a decree has been issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, on the appointment of the Afghan prime minister, with the following text:

The decree by esteemed Najibullah on the assignment of esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar:

In accordance with the instructions of Paragraph 3, Article 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar has been assigned to form a government. The prime minister-designate is duty bound based on the instruction of the Constitution to introduce foreign and internal policy and structure of the government to the Wolasi Jerga in order to obtain a vote of confidence.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Khaliqyar To Form Government

BK0805005890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1824 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 7 (AFP)—President Najibullah Monday [7 May] named a new prime minister from outside his ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), clearing the way for a new cabinet. Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, the governor of western Herat Province, was named prime minister-designate and was expected to form a new cabinet, a presidential spokesman here said.

"His appointment has to be ratified by the state assembly. That is only a formality. He is expected to appoint a new cabinet within a week to two weeks," spokesman Sarwar Yuresh told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Mr. Khaliqyar, in his mid-fifties, was never a member of the PDPA, but commanded the respect of a wide section of the Afghan people, Mr. Yuresh said.

The appointment of Mr. Khaliqyar, who was recovering from serious wounds he suffered during a gunfight at a rebel arms surrender ceremony on April 6 in Herat, came as a surprise to several key PDPA members here.

Mr. Najibullah's decision came a day after he promoted outgoing prime minister, Sultan Ali Kishtmand, as the first vice president, a new post created. The changes took place as the PDPA moved to distance itself from a pro-Marxist revolution of 1978 and announced sweeping reforms to democratise the party and introduce political and economic pluralism in war-torn Afghanistan.

Constitutional Commission Formed By Decree

LD0705192190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] The Presidential Press Office reports that a decree has been issued with the following text by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, on the formation of a commission to draft amendments to the Constitution:

Presidential decree on the formation of a commission to draft amendments to the Constitution:

A commission should be set up with the following structure to prepare a draft for necessary amendments to the constitution:

1. 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, vice president.

2. Members: esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister designate and governor general of northwest zone; esteemed Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand; esteemed Mahmud Habibi, chairman of the Meli Shura Sena; esteemed Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi, chairman of the Wolasi Jerga of the Meli Shura; esteemed Nezamuddin Tahzib, attorney general; esteemed Farid Ahmad Mazdak, acting chairman of the National Front; esteemed Muhammad Eshaq Tokhi, adviser to the president; esteemed Mahbubullah Koshani, first secretary of the Revolutionary Toilers Organization of Afghanistan; esteemed Professor Asghar, chairman of the National Salvation Society; esteemed 'Abdul Ghafar Sharifi, first secretary of the Young Workers Organization of Afghanistan; esteemed Hadulah Geran, first secretary of the Young Toilers Organization of Afghanistan; esteemed Zaman Gol Dehati, first secretary of the Vanguard Toilers Organiation of Afghanistan; esteemed 'Abdul Hakim Tawana, chairman of the Justice Party of Afghan Peasants; esteemed 'Abdul Satar Sirat, chairman of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan; esteemed Muhammad Sarwar Lemach, chairman of the Solidarity Movement of Afghanistan; esteemed Safar Mohammad Khadem, chairman of Ansarullah; esteemed Alhaj Shaykh 'Ali Wosoqusalam Wosoqi, chairman of Hizballah of Afghanistan; esteemed Mahmud Baryalai, first deputy prime minister; esteemed Sayed Sharafodin Sharaf, general prosecutor; esteemed 'Abdul Waheb Safi, chairman of the Constitutional Council; esteemed Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, chairman of the High Economic Consultative Council and deputy prime minster; esteemed Engineer Nazar Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee; esteemed Sayyed Mansur Naderi, senator in the Meli Shura; esteemed Dr. Raz Muhammad Paktin, interior minster; esteemed Anwar Arghandiwal, professor of the College of Law and Political Science; esteemed Professor Wasai Saraj, experienced lawyer and member of the National Salvation Society; esteemed Muhammad Hakim, chairman of the Chambers of Commerce; esteemed 'Abdul Hakim Sharai Jawzjani, deputy of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Afghanistan; esteemed Muhammad Bashir Baghlani, justice minister; esteemed Asef Alam, general head of the

Armed Forces High Court; esteemed Farid Zarif, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Presidency; esteemed Sadiq Saylani, dean of the University of Islamic Science Studies Center; esteemed Muhammad Hakim Karimzada, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of Kabul city; esteemed 'Abdul Karim Shadan, chairman of the Special National Security Court; esteemed Professor Dr. Academician Faruq Etamadi; esteemed Wader Safi, dean of the College of Law and Political Science; esteemed Muhammad Ebrahim, first secretary of the Democratic Youth Organiation of Afghanistan Central Committee; esteemed 'Abdul Satar Purdeli, chairman of the Trade Unions of Afghanistan; esteemed Faridollah Alber [name as heard], chairman of the Peasant Cooperative; esteemed Razwan Gul Tamana, chairman of the Union of Tradesmen; esteemed Muhammad Hayder Pardes, chairman of the Union of Artists; esteemed Rahnaward Daryab, chairman of the Writers Union; esteemed Muhammad Hasan Bareq Shafi, chairman of the Union of Journalists; esteemed Ghulam Sakhi Masun, chairman of the Lawyers Society; esteemed Masoma Esmati Wadaq, chairperson of the Nationwide Women's Council; esteemed Sarwar Manzur, chairman of the Ulema Council and Religious leader; esteemed Shaykh 'Ali Ahmad Fakur, chairman of the Council of Coordination of the Hazara nationality; esteemed Sheer Singh, head of the Indian School; esteemed Dr. Muhammad Anwar Dost, professor of the College of Economy.

3. Esteemed Mir 'Abdul Wahed Sadat, chairman of the Legal Affairs Department of the Presidency, secretary of the commission.

The commission is responsible—taking into acount the development of positive elements in the interests of peace and national understanding and participation of all the forces in the implementation of national reconciliation at the national and international level—for preparing a draft of necessary amendments to the Constitution in order to deepen and expand futher the national reconciliation and to implement further the broad participation of force in the state power and administration. The high Islamic and Afghan principles and high national interest will be the guidelines for this commission's work. This decree should be published in the NATIONAL GAZETTE.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

French Medical Aid Worker Killed; Nurse Escapes

BK0805012690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1730 GMT 7 May 90

[Excerpt] Peshawar, Pakistan, May 7 (AFP)—A French humanitarian aid worker was shot dead in northern Afghanistan's Badakhshan Province, his organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said Monday [7 May], adding that it was freezing its operation immediately. The body of Frederic Galland, 27, was recovered April 27 from a place in Yaftal, near Fayzabad, capital of Badakhshan Province bordering the Soviet Union. The news came here Monday through a messenger who took 10 days to trek down to Peshawar from the area, MSF sources said.

MSF is one of the oldest French non-governmental organizations engaged in providing relief to sick people and war casualties in the troubled regions of the country since the Soviet troops intervened in Afghanistan in 1979. Expressing shock over the killing, the group said it has planned to "immediately freeze all its programmes" in Afghanistan. A senior MSF official did not rule out the possibility of winding up its operation "completely."

Mr. Galland was the second aid worker to be killed in Afghanistan within a year.

A French relief worker, Vincent Gernigon, 24, was killed in an ambush carried out by Afghan government forces in southern Helmand Province in August. His colleague, Xavier Lemire, 36, was captured in the ambush and released by the Kabul regime on French President Francois Mitterrand's intervention a month later.

According to the sources, Mr. Galland, who arrived in Afghanistan in December, was attacked by four armed men after midnight. An MSF nurse who was with him managed to escape. Regine Tessier, 50, remained in hiding the whole night before she could report the incident to the aid organization. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Press Offensive in Provinces

BK0705145490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that in an attack in Khowst mujahidin forces killed 10 Kabul regime soldiers and damaged a tank. The mujahidin conducted rocket attacks on the outskirts of Gardez city in Paktia Province, killing eight Kabul regime militiamen and injuring 22. The mujahidin forces also recaptured an important post north of Jalalabad.

Battle for Key Highways Continues

BK0805014090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1724 GMT 7 May 90

[Excerpt] Kabul, May 7 (AFP)—Afghan security forces fought Monday [7 May] to wrest from rebel control a strategic highway leading to Pakistan, a government spokesman here said. Government troops were occupying captured guerrilla positions on mountains in the Jalalabad area and were moving to secure the Jalalabad-Torham highway amid stiff rebel resistance, spokesman Humayun Mukammel said.

(Resistance sources in Pakistan acknowledged that some hills were taken but said that guerrillas launched a counter-offensive, dislodging government troops from important mountains northeast of the garrison city of Jalalabad. They said six mujahidin rebels were killed while the Afghan army lost seven soldiers in the ongoing battle for the highway.)

The highway is a vital trade route linking Jalalabad and Peshawar in Pakistan. It has been blocked by the mujahidin since the Soviet troop withdrawal in February last year.

(The resistance sources in Peshawar said rebels recaptured one of four important hill posts they lost in a surprise attack by government forces last week. They said government jets continued to bomb the area, ravaging 15 kilometers (nine miles) of road the mujahidin had built for their convoys as well as causing some civilian casualties. Both government and mujahidin forces were using heavy artillery in the battle, they added.)

("The government troops did not gain big ground in the attack except getting some strategic heights," one source said, adding that as a result mujahidin movement in some areas around the city was hampered.)

Mr. Mukammel also said troops had broken guerrilla defences and captured several villages from rebels in the Paghman Mountain region, 20 kilometres (12 miles) northwest of here, in the past three days. [passage omitted]

India

Official Reports IPKF Mission Casualties

BK0805075890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] One thousand one hundred and sixty-three Army personnel were killed during the peacekeeping force operations in Sri Lanka. The minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna, informed the Rajya Sabha during question hour today that those killed include 55 officers, 77 JCO's [junior commissioned officers], and 1,031 other ranks. He said 2,982 Army personnel were injured in these operations. He said an additional expenditure of 299 crore rupees was incurred on the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] mission.

Commentary Notes Declining Sri Lankan Relations

BK0705123390 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 7 May 90

[Commentary by Sridhar of Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis, New Delhi, entitled: "Indo-Sri Lankan Relations"]

[Text] Since the beginning of this year, Indo-Sri Lankan relations have taken a downward swing, largely due to lack of a long-term perspective among the Sri Lankan politicians. Any number of reasons can be attributed for this not-so-normal behavior of the Sri Lankan ruling elite. The resurgence of sub-nationalism threatened the very fabric of Sri Lankan polity. Though with the help of Indian Peacekeeping Force, Premadasa successfully applied the brakes and forced the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] to come to the conference table, the issue is far from resolved.

The LTTE, having acquired the much-needed legitimacy from Colombo, is unwilling to give up its demand for total autonomy for the northern and eastern provinces. The Sinhala chauvinists in Sri Lanka, on the other hand, are unwilling to allow the minority community in the Sri Lankan polity to get away with it so easily. Since the ruling elite sympathizes with the Sinhala chauvinists and are well-known, Colombo is apparently trying to buy time to ditch the LTTE of its demand for autonomy. [sentence as heard] When both LTTE and Colombo are firm in their demands, who among the two will lose patience and take up to arms is to be seen.

The LTTE has slowly and systematically acquired complete control of the Jaffna peninsula and is in the process in eastern provinces. According to travelers' reports, the writ of Colombo does not run in the north, that is the Jaffna Peninsula, and [it is] only a matter of time before LTTE gains control in the east. Virtually, a state within a state is in existence in Sri Lanka today.

The Sri Lankan economy is also a mess. With the International Monetary Fund insisting on bringing the needed structural changes in the Sri Lankan economy before fresh aid commitments are disbursed, the government was forced to act. In fact, there is a proposal to withdraw subsidies given by the government on various commodities of daily use, like food articles. In other words, the leadership in Colombo has agreed in principle to the World Bank suggestion of changing the basic welfare structure of the Sri Lankan economy. This would mean a sharp increase in the prices of essential commodities and immense hardship to the common man. Already, the ethnic violence of the past six years has considerably shattered the economy, and according to various estimates, the economy is experiencing double-digit inflation. With the abolition of subsidies on essential commodities, the inflation may touch new heights.

With these internal problems getting piled up, the Sri Lankan political leadership is trying to divert the attention of its population by letting loose a tirade against India. Instead of addressing itself to reestablishing its authority in the Jaffna peninsula, the political leadership in Colombo thought that it was time to raise the issue of repatriation of Tamil plantation labor who have been given Indian passports under the Shastri-Srimavo pact of 1960's. One is not sure whether the steps reflect the general thinking of the UNP [United National Party]—including Mr. Thondaman, the leader of the Sri Lankan plantation workers and an important ally of the ruling UNP—or that of the Sinhala chauvinists in the ruling elite. In these circumstances, a small neighbor of India like Sri Lanka cannot be expected to behave differently. It is a question how long Colombo will be able to divert the attention of its population from problems it is confronting, and which are its own making, by highlighting minor issues with India. It is time Colombo gets its priorities right.

163 Arrested at Disputed Uttar Pradesh Shrine

BK0705131290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, 163 people were arrested today for apprehension of breach of peace following the call by Shankaracharya of Dwarkapith Swarupanand Saraswati, to perform shilanyas [foundation laying ceremony] of the Sri Ram temple at Ayodhya. The district magistrate of Faizabad said that the situation in Ayodhya and its twin city of Faizabad remained completely normal and peaceful. The authorities have banned entry of people into the vicinity of the [Hindu-Muslim] disputed complex. All routes leading to the site have been sealed. The entire complex has been barricaded with barbed wire. The authorities have maintained that the state government will keep the status quo as per the directive of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. The chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, said that the dispute is sub judice and the government will not allow anybody to intervene in the matter until the court gives its verdict. He said it is the duty of the government to maintain communal amity.

Official Briefs on Satellite Launch Plans

BK0605102590 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 21 Apr 90 p 5

[Text] Thiruvananthapuram, April 20—The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is expected to be ready for launch by the end of the year. An integrated trial of the second stage of the PSLV, which will be using the liquid propulsion system fabricated by the ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization], was successfully tested last month at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Mahendragiri, 100 km from here.

The configuration for the second stage will be ready by August, while an identical configuration of the fourth stage of the PSLV, which also will be fired by liquid propellants, will be ready by June-July for the final qualification of the launch.

Dr. Muthunayagam, director, of the Centre told a visiting press party that a major review of the second stage of the PSLV was expected to be done in May which would decide the final date of the launch.

Work in liquid propulsion over the last few years has established the capability of the ISRO to design, develop and test the liquid propulsion systems. The PSLV uses liquid engines for the second and fourth stages, the assembly and testing of which has been done at the Mahendragiri Centre of the ISRO.

Dr. Muthunayagam said the final approval for the geosynchronous satellite launch vehicle [GSLV] was expected in a few months time. A cryogenic engine of about 12 tonnes thrust is being considered for application in the upper stage of the GSLV. The lower stages will use engines without cryogenic configurations.

The final qualification for A-22 neutron engine thrust using biopropellants for INSAT-IIB [Indian National Satellite] has been test-fired in the Centre's simulated high altitude test bay.

The Centre is also in the process of developing a biopropellant liquid apogee motor of 440 neutron thrust for the INSAT-II satellite propulsion. For Indian Remote Sensing [IRS] Satellite-IB, the design for A-11 neutron thruster has been completed and the development of this will soon be under way.

It is to be noted that all developments in the field of liquid propulsion systems have been achieved through indigenous efforts. The only foreign component in the PSLV, for example, is the engine for the second stage. The foreign component has come in the form of a technology transfer from SEP [expansion unknown], France, under a contract entered into by the Government and the French quasi-government company. The rest of the systems are entirely developed by our scientists, Dr. Muthunayagam said.

Around Rs [rupees] 100 crore will be spent on the second and the fourth stage of the PSLV. The funding for the Centre depends on the programmes undertaken by it. The budgeting for the Centre is divided into two: one to establish facilities which were of a permanent nature and which could be used in other programmes, and to meet the actual expenditure for the materials for fabricating the vehicle system. The second stage of the PSLV, which is a very complicated configuration, alone required Rs 65 crore, Dr Muthunayagam said.

In 1989, the Centre got Rs 16 crore for its activities and Rs 6.5 crore for its cryogenic project. The INSAT, IRS and SLV assignments fetched it a sum of Rs 20 crore. Regarding the current year, the Centre is expecting an allocation of Rs 20 crore. It is also expecting a quantum leap in the allocation for cryogenic projects to the tune of Rs 20 crore pending the approval of the project by the Centre.

Soviet Metals Minister Notes Cooperation

BK0505090090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] The Soviet Union is to assist India in expanding its aluminum production for which discussions are underway. The Soviet minister for ferrous metallurgy, Mr. Serafim Kolpakov, said that he is happy with the progress made by India in the field of steel and nonferrous industry. The minister said in New Delhi that the steel production in India would increase with the commissioning of the [Soviet-aided] Vishakhapatnam steel plant. He said that both the countries are considering to set up new steel projects. Mr. Kolpakov said that the two countries are in touch with each other in technology transfer. An agreement to this effect is being worked out and his country would help modernize Indian steel plant.

Iran

Majles Speaker Karrubi Discusses U.S. Ties

LD0705141890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 7 May 90

[From the "Majles and the People" program: speech by Majles Speaker Karrubi at the 6 May Majles session in Tehran—recorded]

[Text] Just as the eminent leader graciously said in his very decisive and explicit speech and his very, very important message, the release of the hostages was not because of the United States or for the sake of the United States; it took place on the basis of a humanitarian and Islamic movement and on the basis of the vision possessed by Muslims. As to the idea that all hostages be released and then ties normalized: Who ever asked for ties? Who wants ties? Who is it who may establish ties? The United States does not seem to know what hatred, anger, and revulsion it inspires in Islamic Iran. It seems that the United States does not know and has forgotten that the Imam graciously said in 1343 [1964-65], after the capitulation affair [reference to U.S. citizens being granted judicial immunity in Iran]: Let the U.S. President know that they are the lowest order of humanity in our nation's view. Our nation is its enemy, our Koran is its enemy. That thought, that world outlook, and that idea remain entirely in force. The people have maintained their spirit of revolution and hatred for the United States.

We saw how a brother [reference to Mohajerani], with his good past record, expressed a view, an outlook. He wrote something, but all of a sudden, a rage, a sense of revolution and hatred arose in our society. The nation was perturbed by his words. We saw how upset the nation was, but with our leader's decisiveness and through his decisive words, a peace and calm was established for our people. The United States has spoken of ties; who has asked for ties? Who is it who may establish ties? Our officials are not like that. Just as he [Khamane'i] graciously said, all our affairs, our society, our policy-making is on the basis of the velayat-e faqih [vice regency of the jurisconsult] and in the hands of the eminent leader. He will decide, and he expressed his position unequivocally.

*Paper Alleges Americans Meeting With Iran

90AS0045A London KEYHAN in Persian 3 May 90 pp 1, 9

[Text] According to an exclusive report, two Americans traveled separately and secretly to Tehran on 1 and 3 April for talks with officials of the Islamic Republic about the American hostages in Lebanon. These two persons, David Rogers and Michael O'Leary, met and conducted negotiations with high officials of the Islamic Republic regime. The above-mentioned report, which KEYHAN obtained through a reliable source, indicates that these two Americans talked about the release of the hostages and ways to improve relations between the United States and the Islamic Republic.

The news of the trip of these two Americans, concerning whose official position we have not received any information, has not been published by any other source, and officials of the Islamic Republic and the United States continue to deny any direct contact with each other.

So as to remove any doubt concerning direct contact between the Islamic Republic and the United States, the Islamic Republic radio announced in its nightly news on Friday this week the statement of Fitzwater, the spokesman of the White House: "We have no source available for the freedom of the hostages except Syria."

But, in the meantime, the Government of Israel rejects the denial of the United States and the regime of the Islamic Republic concerning their having no contact and believes that despite the denials, mediators continue talks with the Islamic Republic, the government of Syria, and the hostage takers. According to Israeli officials, talks continue in Beirut and Holland for the release of the American hostages.

In addition, the Israelis announced on Wednesday [2 May] that the U.S. Government has sent messages in recent days through mediating governments such as Japan, Switzerland, and Algeria, and Hashemi-Rafsanjani has been warned that until all the U.S. hostages in Lebanon are released, he should not expect improved relations with the United States.

Mary Calvin, the London SUNDAY TIMES reporter, quoting a Lebanese with close ties to the CIA, states that Hashemi-Rafsanjani is very eager to have improved relations with the United States and in the recent events has tried to put pressure on the kidnappers to release three American hostages. According to this source, the initial negotiations and efforts of Mahmud Rafsanjani, the brother of 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, had paved the way in Beirut for the release of three American hostages, but in the last moments the extremist elements of the Hezbollah connected with the religious extremists in Tehran prevented the release of two other hostages.

According to the above-mentioned source, Hashemi-Rafsanjani has sent artillery, anti-tank missiles, rockets, and mortars to Lebanon to appease the hostage takers.

The same source emphasized that Hashemi-Rafsanjani has reached the conclusion that without U.S. aid, the Islamic Republic regime will be unable to attain access to the financial and technological resources for the reconstruction of Iran and the strengthening of the Army, and even the International Monetary Fund will avoid granting loans to the Islamic Republic without the consent of the United States.

View of 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, Deputy of Hashemi-Rafsanjani

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's deputy for legal and parliamentary affairs, 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, published an article

in ETTELA'AT (Thursday, 26 April) announcing that direct negotiations between the Islamic Republic and the United States are in the best interests of Iran. He said that the Islamic Republic does not intend to confine itself within the walls of its own house and avoid establishing friendly relations with other countries.

'Ata'ollah Mohajerani is the first person to openly support direct talks with the United States. Mohajerani writes in his article that the issue of the hostages is in one sense a good lesson for the Islamic Republic, because it is evident that the government of Syria has not avoided direct talks with the United States and in this issue has become the first star in the scenario of releasing the hostages, thereby serving its nation and its interests. Mohajerani added: We must not forget that the United States played an essential role in devising and ratifying Resolution 598 of the UN Security Council. We must not ignore this fact.

Mohajerani referred to the issue of the military and political power of Iraq and emphasized that Iran should also engage in the economic and industrial reconstruction of the country as soon as possible.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's deputy added: Negotiation to resolve a problem is a common issue in life and human history and requires no defense or proof. If the Islamic Republic ignores this fact, it must pay heavily for it in the future.

Balance Disrupted

Although all the sources involved in the hostage issue considered certain the release of another hostage by Friday 27 April, 'Id al-Fitr holiday, the refusal of the United States to give the positive response expected by the regime of the Islamic Republic from the day after the release of Robert Polhill clouded the atmosphere for the release of the second hostage. It is still not quite clear what the regime of the Islamic Republic and the hostage takers expected the United States to do, but the U.S. Government neither spoke about the release of the frozen assets of Iran in the United States nor has it agreed to put pressure on the governments of Israel and Kuwait to release Sheykh 'Abdolkarim 'Ubayd and the Palestinian and Shiite hostages.

Last Tuesday, 'Ali Akbar Velayati had said: After the release of Robert Polhill, it is now the turn of the United States to show good will. However, President Bush in his expression of gratitude gave more credit to Hafiz al-Asad. Moreover, the unilateral tone of the White House spokesman and the U.S. State Department concerning the secret dealings with the Islamic regime and the hostage takers upset them. The White House spokesman announced last Tuesday that the United States will not show any softening of its policy and will not deal with them.

Finally, the ratification of the proposal to recognize Jerusalem as the indivisible and permanent capital of Israel, which was ratified last Tuesday by the U.S. Congress, tried the patience of the Islamic regime and the hostage takers, so that Seyyed Hoseyn Musavi, the leader of the Islamic Amal Party, announced officially in Beirut that the resolution ratified in the U.S. Congress in the interest of the United States has brought the release of the other American hostages to a standstill. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI published in Tehran also writes that the ratification of this resolution in the U.S. Congress is like a slap in the face of the groups who wanted to show their goodwill through efforts to release Robert Polhill.

Renewed Hopes

On Sunday, one group of Lebanese hostage takers called Islamic Dawn announced in a communique accompanied by a picture of American hostage Frank Herbert Reed that within the next 48 hours that hostage would be released, and he would carry a message to the U.S. Government.

Frank Herbert Reed, who is 57 years old, was the director of an international high school in Beirut. He was kidnapped on 9 September 1986, and there had been no news of him until now.

Saddam Allegedly Proposes Direct Talks With Iran

NC0805110390 Paris AFP in English 1048 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 8 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has proposed direct talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to discuss a final settlement to the Gulf war, diplomatic sources said here.

The newspaper ABRAR reported Tuesday [8 May] that the Iranian security council and parliamentary foreign affairs committee have examined a letter sent recently to the Iranian leadership by Iraq. Iranian press reports have referred to the letter in the last few days without disclosing its contents.

But diplomatic sources here said Mr. Husayn had proposed a direct meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, outside the framework of the United Nations.

President Husayn suggested that the two leaders could work towards a "friendly settlement" of differences between Iran and Iraq that have so far prevented the conclusion of a final peace settlement to the Gulf war, the sources added.

The two sides have been observing a U.N.-sponsored cease-fire since August 1988 but have made no progress in talks, also arranged by the United Nations, toward a permanent peace treaty. Iran is demanding an Iraqi withdrawal from Iranian territory as the next step in the peace process while Iraq insists that an exchange of prisoners of war and assurances of freedom of navigation in the Gulf should take priority.

Paper Decries Reports of Iranian Chemical Weapons

LD0605103390 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—An English-language daily Sunday [6 May] condemned the Washington-Baghdad "orchestrated effort to acquit Iraq and exert fresh pressures on Iran". In an editorial titled: "Washington-Baghdad Coordinate anti-Iran Propaganda", the daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' castigated recent reports by Western press claiming that Iran too had used chemical weapons in Halabjah.

Halabjah, a Kurdish town in Iraq's northeastern Sulaimaniyeh Province, was liberated by Iran's Muslim combatants in March 1988 in the course of Val-Fajr-10 operations. The town was subsequently heavily bombed by Iraqi planes using chemical weapons, killing or wounding over 10,000 civilians.

"The U.S. is now viewing Iraq as one of its pawns in the Middle East. A proof of this is the opposition of the U.S. State Department to a move by the Senate and Congress to impose sanctions on Iraq." wrote the article.

It stressed that attempts to mar the image of the Islamic revolution before Muslim nations started two years ago and is likely to continue in future.

"Once Iran was accused of cooperation with the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime, today it is blamed for the Halabjah chemical tragedy," noted the editorial. It concluded by saying: "But what is always overlooked in levelling these charges is the belief of the nations."

Editorial Decries Saddam's Regional 'Blackmail'

NC0405144390 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Saddam's Money Demands—Blackmail of Region"]

[Text] Informed sources in the Middle East say Saddam Husayn has demanded $16 billion and $11 billion from two Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region for its foreign exchange budget for the year 1990.

This kind of blackmail, which began 10 years ago with Iraq's aggression in September 1980 against the Islamic Republic of Iran, unfortunately still continues even one-and-a-half years after the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq. Certain conservative political sources in the region had predicted that such blackmailing would end with the war. But today we witness that Iraq, through its brutal policies and violation of international laws and use of deadly chemical weapons, has put such a terror among the smaller countries of the Persian Gulf that it openly continues its blackmail without even having the excuse of a war.

Meanwhile, the oil-rich Arab countries of the region at present don't enjoy much stability in obtaining foreign exchange due to the situation in the world oil market. Here the main questions arises: How long do the regional countries intend to give in to such blackmail? Particularly since this foreign exchange, as has been the case until now, has been used for obtaining deadly weapons, which in practice have been used mainly for scaring the region's smaller and weaker countries. The fact is that leaders of these countries are committing political suicide with their own hands.

It has been known that during the past five years Iraq was the world's main purchaser of arms. In fact the Iraqi regime purchased nine percent of all the arms produced in the world.

The solution to this lengthy crisis in the Persian Gulf region is to work out a "collective" security pact which denies any country the right of being a "gendarme" of the region.

In fact this proposal of the Islamic Republic to the regional countries is made in a spirit of self-sacrifice on iran's part, only that regional peace may be achieved. This is so because all political observers know very well that Iran is the top candidate from the point of view of geo-political and strategic conditions, for being a "gendarme" of the region.

But Iran accepts the principle of equality for the region, on the condition that all foreign forces are withdrawn from the region and the security of the Persian Gulf becomes a concern solely of the regional countries neighboring this vital waterway.

Editorial Views 'Stalled' Peace Process

NC0405144990 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 24 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Peace Talks: Is There Any Hope of Progress?"]

[Text] The UN Secretary General in a meeting with Iran's UN envoy last week said that Resolution 598 was the most lucid resolution ever issued by the Security Council.

Javier Perez de Cuellar made the statement to Kamal Kharrazi in a meeting at the United Nations as Iran and Iraq prepare to hold a new round of peace talks in New York within a month.

Perez de Cuellar stressed in the meeting that the UN Security Council had not passed the resolution as a ceremonial move but that it meant to precisely implement it.

The UN chief also expressed hopes that the council members would use other facilities at their disposal in helping him speed up the execution of the resolution.

A new round of peace talks is due to be held under the auspices of the UN Secretary General soon while the previous rounds have failed to bring about peace between the two neighbours who fought a bloody war for eight years.

During the UN-sponsored tripartite talks, Iran's rational stance has been backed not only by Perez de Cuellar but also by most of the governments which are honestly and neutrally following the trend of the negotiations.

Regrettably though, lack of international pressure on Iraq for impeding the implementation of the resolution, has actually stalled the peace process.

Despite being aware of Baghdad's repeated obstructionism in the course of the talks and despite his occasional implicit admission, Mr. Perez de Cuellar has however failed to censure Iraq for hindering the return of peace and tranquility to the volatile Persian Gulf region.

The result of this shortcoming is that 21 months after the ceasefire even the first paragraph of the Resolution 598, that is the end of hostilities and withdrawal of troops to internationally-recognized borders, has not yet been implemented.

Over 2,300 sq. kms. of Iranian territory is still under Iraqi occupation but the international community continues to remain indifferent towards this blatant evidence of Baghdad's inconsideration for the UN peace plan.

From the very outset, the Iraqis were in favor of a peace which would at the same time allow them to impose their unjust and illegitimate conditions on the entire region.

During its eight-year-old aggression against Islamic Iran, the subservient regime in Baghdad failed in achieving its expansionist intentions. Therefore, after Iran's unconditional acceptance of Resolution 598, the Iraqis began to throw obstacles on its way in an attempt not to become isolated in the political front as well.

Iraq's procrastinations and obstructionism have continued under conditions that the United Nations and its secretary general as the executor of Resolution 598 have remained indifferent towards all these unconcealed violations.

The secretary general, permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council, and other member states of the international body have used every occasion to voice oral support for 598 but have taken no effective step towards its implementation.

Today the international community is quite lax about the tension caused in the Persian Gulf as a result of the policy Iraq's masters have drawn to prolong the no-war-no-peace situation.

If the Iraqi side is to continue its intransigency in the new round of the peace talks and if the UN leader continues to be influenced by political considerations, there would be no reason for Iran to vest hope in the negotiation table and in efforts which seem to have no color of realism and justice seeking.

Motorcyclist Attempts To Shoot Ahmad Khomeyni

TA0805124790 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] An assassination attempt was made on Ahmad Khomeyni and his sister in front of Mostafa Khomeyni Hospital in Tehran on Friday afternoon, 4 May. It is being said in Tehran that the assassin was riding a motorcycle. He fired several shots at Ahmad Khomeyni and his sister, who was wounded, but Khomeyni himself was not harmed.

PRC's Wan Li Meets With Majles Speaker

LD0705122890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress, and his accompanying delegation, who are visiting Iran at the invitation of Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majlis, presented themselves at the immaculate shrine of Imam Khomeyni—may God's benedictions be upon him—and this morning laid a wreath in tribute to the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the Central News Unit, the Chinese parliamentary delegation also met with Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Islamic Majles, this morning. They discussed bilateral relations, the expansion of parliamentarian ties, and issues of mutual interest with him.

In this meeting, Mr. Karrubi referred to the historical and far-reaching economic and cultural relations between Iran and China, saying:

We wish our relations to continue to expand in all areas. The Majles speaker pointed to the mutual friendly relations during the imposed war, and said: China's stands regarding the war were good. Because of that, we expect your country to take the necessary action now toward the implementation of the UN Resolution 598 within the framework of the general secretary's plan. We pursue the establishment of peace and security in the region, and this is impossible except through the implementation of Resolution 598.

Also referring to the problem of Palestine and the emigration of Soviet Jews, he said: Various conspiracies are being hatched in the region to assist Israel with its expansionist policies, and this at a time when the people of Palestine are homeless and the world is witnessing this oppression. He also requested the PRC's cooperation and the use of its experience toward reconstruction of the country.

Also during the meeting, the chairman of the PRC parliament said in connection with the implementation of Resolution 598 that the Government of China always considers the issue, is happy that Iran has accepted the cease-fire and the resolution, and is making efforts at the United Nations in that regard.

Referring to Israel's expansionist policies, he stressed: We are against Israeli expansionist policies and support the Palestinian nation's struggle. This is our fundamental policy. On the emigration of Soviet Jews, the Chinese parliament chief said: The position of China is that the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel is not right and it is against Palestine's independence.

At the end of the meeting, the Chinese parliament chief invited Mr. Karrubi to visit the PRC.

Discusses U.S. Policies With Velayati

LD0705183690 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Monday [7 May] described Tehran-Beijing relations as 'good and firm' particularly after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. Velayati made the above remarks in a meeting with chief of the standing committee of the Chinese National Congress Wan Li, who arrived in Iran Sunday [6 May] on the invitation of the Majles speaker.

The Chinese official said his country lauds the Islamic Republic's stands on Security Council Resolution 598. "We declared our support for the U.N. secretary general regarding enforcement of 598," he added.

Wan was indignant over American meddling in China's domestic affairs—a policy which he said was opposed by Third World countries.

He said Washington has deployed aircraft carriers in Taiwan, Israel and South Africa under the pretext of 'human rights' to back the policies of these regimes. "Whereas," he reminded, "it (U.S.) deceives the Soviet Jews who are eager to go to America, and sends them instead to Israel by using the 'human rights' weapon."

The Chinese official denouncing Washington's inhuman policies said the U.S. has mocked human rights to the extent that its naval forces missiled down the Iranilan airliner martyring over 290 civilians on board.

Wan Li was referring to the regular Iran Air Bandar-e Abbas-Dubai flight which was criminally brought down by the USS Vincennes on July 3, 1988. Last week, the American Government revealed its terrorist nature by decorating the criminal skipper of the Vincennes.

Meets Parliamentarians

NC0805074490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] The Iranian members of the friendship group of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the PRC have held a meeting with the high-ranking Chinese parliamentary delegation which is visiting our country. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

The Central News Unit reports that during this meeting Mr. Wan Li, chairman of the PRC National People's Congress, expressed his happiness at the formation of the parliamentary friendship group between the two countries and his hopes that this group will play a constructive role in expanding relations between the two parliaments and between the governments and peoples of China and Iran.

The vice chairman of the PRC National People's Congress then stated that China has formed parliamentary friendship groups with five countries, including Iran.

During this meeting, Mr. Asgharzadeh, Iranian chairman of the two countries' parliamentary friendship group, expressed hopes that the relations between the two countries will expand. He stated: The parliamentary friendship groups monitor and assist the two countries' relations, and they enhance cooperation between the political and executive organs.

During the meeting it was also agreed that the two countries' parliamentary friendship group would organize a friendship week to enable the two nations to become more fully acquainted with each other's culture.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives New Pakistani Envoy

Favors Closer Cooperation

LD0605110190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Shemshad Ahmad Khan, the new Pakistani ambassador. During the meeting the new Pakistani ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran presented his credentials and conveyed the warmest greetings of his country's president and prime minister to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He also briefed the president on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and Afghanistan. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed greetings to the president and prime minister of Pakistan and praised the all-round cooperation between Iran and Pakistan. He said: More has to be done concerning technical and commercial cooperation. Iran and Pakistan could definitely have closer cultural cooperation. There is also scope for cooperation in the fight against narcotics, maintaining security on the common borders, and ending insurgency. Regarding the Afghan issue and the forthcoming elections by Muslim crusaders, he stressed: We believe that elections in Afghanistan should be held in such a way that all the people could take part: Women should also be allowed to participate.

Comments on Kashmir

BK0705034090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has reaffirmed his country's solidarity with Pakistan on the question of Jammu and Kashmir. Accepting the credentials of Pakistan's ambassador-designate in Tehran yesterday, he said the peaceful settlement of the Kashmir problem and Afghan issue would contribute to the cause of peace and stability in the area.

The Iranian president also spoke of the existing Pakistan-Iran bilateral cooperation and hoped it would further increase.

The ambassador said Pakistan highly appreciated Iran's forthright and principled support on the Kashmir issue. He said Pakistan would continue to seek a peaceful solution to this problem in accordance with the UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement.

Reportage on Velayati Visit to Finland

WA0705152790

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Finland, including reports on his talks with President Mauno Koivisto, Prime Minister Harri Holkeri, Foreign Minister Paasio, and other top officials, please see the Finland section of the 3 May West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Comments on Relations

NC0505082590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 May 90

[Statement by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on his return from Finland at Mehrabad Airport in Tehran on May 4—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful. Relations between Iran and Finland have grown after the revolution. The visit just completed was a positive and, God willing, constructive step toward consolidating the two countries' relations.

The political stands of Iran and Finland have quite a few similarities. Finland has good industrial and commercial potential in some fields such as exploring for and extracting oil in the Caspian Sea, reconstructing damaged forests, and in wood and paper industries and some other heavy industries. Preparations for cooperation were made; this cooperation was determined more specifically during this visit, and an agreement was reached on how to carry it out.

On the basis of the memorandum of understanding we signed, the two countries will form a joint commission in Tehran in the next few weeks. This commission will provide an extremely favorable framework for the future of comprehensive relations between us in commerce, industry, economics, politics, culture, and education.

Finland has advanced universities offering some scientific and technical courses which compare with those in top-ranking world universities. There are possibilities for extending scholarships to our students, especially for post-graduate and doctoral degrees.

As for politics, because Finland is now presiding over the Security Council and is among its active nonpermanent members, it can play a significant role in putting regional problems of the world, including the Iran-Iraq talks, into order.

I briefed the Finnish foreign minister and some other Finnish officials on the latest developments in our talks with the secretary general on implementing Resolution 598. We think that this exchange of information between us will, God willing, play a constructive role in pushing Resolution 598 forward, on the condition that the Iraqis ends their obstinacy.

UK Urged To Influence Israel, Phalangists

PM0805112690 London TV Television Network in English 2100 GMT 4 May 90

[Interview with Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by reporter Joan Thirkettle in Helsinki on ITV's "News at Ten" program, as part of a report on what Iran wants from Britain as a first step toward releasing British hostages; no date given—recorded]

[Text] [Velayati] If Britain uses its influence over Israel or Phalangists to get the release of the Lebanese and Palestinian and Iranian hostages, that could be a good indication.

[Thirkettle] The British Government has made it clear that it doesn't do deals.

[Velayati] Okay, that's up to them. We also are not looking for deal: We are talking about humanitarian attitude.

[Thirkettle] The death threat on Salman Rushdie stays, but the minister said if the British Government is ready to respect Islamic law, there are no obstacles to talks.

[Velayati] The question of Rushdie is another question. If you're referring the verdict that was issued by our late leader, late imam, that was not based on the political attitude or political will.

Treatment of UK Student Prisoner Deplored

LD0705222490 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—Prisoner Number 2482 of Britain's Brixton jail has now spent several months in his cell without trial and may have to spend probably another twelve months before being brought to a judge for a offence which he never committed.

Iranian Mehrdad Kokabi was a doctoral student at Manchester University immediately before his arrest. Apparently the British police are trying to invent and botch up evidence against him in order to try him on charges of attempted bombing. The poor student, however, is being victimized at the hands of the British politicians for purely political reasons and as a subject for international propaganda and political pressure against the Islamic Republic.

Britain's political architects know too well that as a rule Iranian students in Britain are too busy as students to think of other activities. Kokabi's performance as student, and his excellent grades as well as another 30 deported foreign students all attest to their commitment

to academic work. The statements of the chancellor of the university corroborates the claim.

In the face of the situation, and amid Britain's vast propaganda for human rights and the concern of the British Government about the life of the Englishmen said to be missing in Lebanon, the British Government has deliberately remained silent about the Iranian prisoner in Manchester, and the print media in that country have dealt with the case as though it were an arrest and imprisonment as obvious as any other in that country.

Incidentally the British Government in justifying its peculiar treatment with certain sectors of foreign students in England has repeatedly described them as "supporters of Iran and Ayatollah (Imam) Khomeyni."

The question which the Iranian Government officials are discussing among themselves is whether the Islamic Republic could afford to send Iranian bursary students and others to the United Kingdom and totally ignore Britain's view of the offence of a foreign subject's faith in the Islamic Republic and the political system in this part of the world.

If Iranian students on educational stay in Britain happen to have faith in the Islamic revolution—which they do—then it means that because of the fear of the British Government of those people, Britain will continue to deport more and more Iranian students in the future.

In view of the circumstances, therefore, it seems as though the Ministry of Health and Medical Education would do well to revise its present policy of sending students to Britain so that the education and professional life of those students would not suffer at the hands of Britain's political architects.

Iran does not intend to challenge Europe, but at the same time the reaction of the Islamic Government towards such behavior with its own subjects abroad should not be such that would be interpreted by Margaret Thatcher's shaky government as a response indicating weakness.

In the light of what is happening in the U.K. and because of the apparent concern of the Britons about human rights and Britain's efforts for tracing out the missing Englishmen in Lebanon and the global propaganda the British Government has been publishing [word indistinct] relation with apostate Salman Rushdie who has mocked the religious faith of one billion Muslims, the British press as well as British politicians and the Canterbury Church would do well to demand some explanation from their government for its malicious treatment of Muslims in England including the imprisonment without trial of the Iranian student.

Obviously those of the British officials who expect that Iran exercise its influence in Lebanon for tracing the Englishmen missing in that country, cannot claim to have no influence upon their own government at home.

Italian Envoy on Hostages, Warships for Iraq

NC0405144690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Apr 90 pp 1, 7

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Italian Ambassador Vittorio Amadeo in Tehran on 23 April]

[Text] Tehran—Italian Ambassador to Iran Vittorio Amadeo Farinelli yesterday said that 'the freedom of an American hostage on Sunday [22 April] is a milestone in the way of closing a chapter on this hostage issue.'

In an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES Farinelli said that the Bush Administration might do something in return for the release of the Iranian hostages also.

He was commenting on the statement of U.S. President George Bush who on Sunday said, that he was not making any goodwill gesture just because one hostage was freed.

"I do not think it's like that. I think the U.S. will do something so that the process of the freedom of hostages may continue," Italian ambassador said, adding that the U.S. will also do something for the release of the Iranian hostages.

The Iranians were the first victims of this hostage taking process. Lebanese Phalangists kidnapped four Iranian hostages in 1982. The four Iranians included Iran's charge d'affaires Hoseyn Musavi, and three others.

Farinelli said that an Italian is also victim and we do not have word about him.

A businessman, Alberto Molinari, 71, was abducted in 1985.

The Italian ambassador said that his country also sought the assistance of Iranian officials but so far there was no result.

On bilateral Irano-Italian relations Farinelli said that the session of the joint commission of the two countries produced excellent results.

"During the second session of the joint commission early this month both sides showed enormous goodwill and tried to find solutions to the problems being faced by both sides for the smooth flow of reciprocal relations," Farinelli said.

He said that exchanges of visits by the two countries had accelerated and "we hope these closer contacts will result in better understanding and fruitful cooperation between Tehran and Rome."

He said that offices in Tehran and Rome have been set up for the follow up of individual cases planned as a result of the second session of the joint ministerial commission.

Deputy Mines and Metal Minister Dr. Shams Ardakani is in charge of the office in Tehran while Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Alberto Rossi is heading the office in Rome. These offices have been assigned the job of coordination between iranian and Italian private and public sectors or bilateral cooperation.

In an answer to a question Farinelli said that Italy would not do 'anything which could jeopardize the peace process under the framework of Security Council Resolution 598.

He said that no decision has been taken as yet for the delivery of the ship to Iraq.

An IRNA report on Sunday said that Foreign Ministry Director General for Western Europe Hoseyn Musavian summoned the Italian ambassador in the Foreign Ministry on Sunday for some explanation over reports of the delivery of a number of Italian warships to Iraq.

Musavian said in the meeting that a country like Italy is expected to avoid any move which might inflame tension in the region, and weaken the peace process and the implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598.

Expressing Iran's grave concern over the issue Musavian reiterated that the delivery of the warships to Iraq would have negative impact on the peace process in the region.

Farinelli in reply promised to convey the matter to his government, and inform the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Italy's official position in this regard.

Various sources including the Italian news agency (ANSA) quoting Italian officials had earlier wired some reports concerning the delivery of the warships to Iraq.

The ships had been ordered by Iraq in 1981, that is one year after Iraq imposed the war on Iran, but Italy did not deliver them. The move by the Italian government has incited various reactions since Iraq has not yet accepted the Resolution 598.

Velayati Receives Shevardnadze Message From Envoy

LD0705084590 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—A message from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was delivered to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday [7 May]. The message handed over by Soviet Ambassador to Tehran Vladimir V. Goudev in a meeting with Velayati, stresses good neighbourly relations between the two countries and also explains political objectives of certain foreign countries which are creating problems in the Soviet Republic of Lithuania. It also stated that the Lithuanian issue is an internal problem of the Soviet Union and efforts to internationalize it will have adverse consequences not only for Moscow but for the whole world.

The Soviet diplomat also discussed with Velayati Tehran-Moscow relations and the major regional and international issues. Iran's foreign minister expressed the hope that the recent developments in the Soviet Union and the world will be for the prosperity of the Soviets. Velayati also said that exchange of delegations at all levels are indicative of interest of both sides in further promotion of bilateral relations.

USSR's Petrovskiy Arrives With Delegation

LD0705113690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Petrovskiy, the Soviet deputy foreign minister for international affairs, arrived in Tehran last night at the head of a high-ranking political delegation. He was welcomed by Mr. Mottaki, deputy foreign minister for international affairs.

During his stay in Tehran he will hold discussions with high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials on bilateral and international issues, UN Security Council Resolution 598, and Afghanistan and Middle Eastern Issues.

Discusses Resolution 598

LD0705172690 Tehran IRNA in English 1531 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—A first round of talks between Deputy Foreign Minister for International Manuchehr Mottaki and his Soviet counterpart Vladimir Petrovskiy was held here today.

The Soviet official announced his country's readiness to take measures for solving the Iraq-Iran conflict based on U.N. Security Council resolution 598 and accelerating the trend of the peace talks. He also voiced support for U.N.'s mediating role. The Soviet Union is against introducing of any pre-conditions in the peace talks, Petrovskiy said.

Mottaki said the Islamic Republic has made its mind for a durable peace and practically proved its 'goodwill' on the issue. But the Iraqi regime's attitudes indicate that Baghdad has not yet made a political decision for implementation of the Resolution 598 and achievement of peace, Mottaki said.

The Soviet official was informed at the meeting of the Islamic Republic's concern over continued influx of Soviet Jews to the occupied lands as well as the Middle East issues.

Also discussed at the meeting was the two sides' stances on Afghanistan.

The Soviet official arrived here Sunday night [6 May].

Iranian, Soviet Azerbaijanis Meet at Border

LD0705231490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] This afternoon, more than 3,000 Azerbaijanis from both sides of the Aras River border gathered at Sanam-Bolaghi—situated near PolzDasht—and met their relatives.

According to a Central News Unit report, in the gathering, which lasted for three hours, the Soviet Azeris announced that on the anniversary of loss of his holiness

Imam Khomeyni—may God accept him to his paradise—they will participate in mourning ceremonies in sympathy with the Muslim nation of Iran.

In that gathering, furthermore, once again the necessity to facilitate contacts between Azeris on both sides of the Aras river in Shah-Takhti region was stressed by the people of Soviet Azerbaijan

*RESALAT Report on 18 Apr 90 Majles Session

90AS0038A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 19 Apr 90 p 5

[Excerpts] Legal and Majles Department:

Yesterday morning the Majles convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi. During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, the deputies from Dorud and Azna, Gorgan, Masjed-e Soleyman, and Sanandaj spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then Mr. Karrubi gave a detailed talk on the occasion of Jerusalem Day, the details of which were printed for you in the previous issue. Then after the memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, the Majles began its agenda.

Printed below are the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers, the memos from the deputies, and the detailed proceedings.

Seyyed Mohsen Shafi'i, Dorud and Azna Deputy

Mr. Shafi'i from the Dorud and Azna electoral district, was the first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majles session. He gave a talk on the occasion of the martyrdom of the leader of the monotheists, the commander of the faithful, His Holiness 'Ali Ibn-Abi Taleb (peace be upon him). [passage omitted]

Elsewhere in his talk, he announced his support from the message from the exalted revolutionary leader concerning the extensive involvement of Muslims on International Jerusalem Day, and he mentioned the importance of both Shiite and Sunni representation on this day. He said: The nation of Sunnis and Shiites will join hands and give a splendid demonstration, to show once again to the world-devourers that we have entirely dropped the process of compromise. Nothing but the sword can prevail between us and the Zionist usurpers. We support with all our might the revolutionary mojahedin of Palestine, and we reinforce and revere their position. The stones they throw strike not only the sick minds of the Zionist rulers, but the stinking brains of Fahd, Husni Mubarak, Hasan of Morocco, Husayn of Jordan, and the rest of the corrupt leaders including the stupid asses who act as brokers to sell their country, meaning Yasir 'Arafat. The bloody Zionists have no right to remain on the land of the people of Palestine next to the foremost Muslim shrine, and ultimately they must leave. Certainly, with perseverance from the revolutionary people, using the center of guidance and light, meaning Islamic Iran, with the triumph of the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him), the exposure of the Americanized Islamic leaders, and the elimination of the rigid pseudo-clerics of the court of the great Satan, meaning corrupt America, its corrupt illegitimate child, usurper Israel, will be obliterated and destroyed. However, you must not ignore America's lackeys such as the criminal and evil Saudi family and the irreligious mercenary Wahhabis who have no inclination to fight America separately from this corrupt vermin.

The speaker also discussed the pilgrimage to Mecca. He said emphatically: We will accept no compromise or blackmail, and following the guidance of the founder of the Islamic Republic as well as the proclamations of the dear leader of the Islamic revolution, whenever God grants us the blessing of circumambulating his house, right there in Medina and Mecca we will shout Death to America and cry out our innocence, and in this regard our revolutionary nation will accept no conditions "even if it be the world of polytheists." [quoting Koranic verse]

Mr. Shafi'i then discussed the defeat of communism. He said: Today, following the defeat and frustration of international communism, the nations of the world, who did not benefit from the deceptive slogans of Marxism and on the other hand are fed up with filthy bourgeois indulgence and the government of capital, are earnestly, passionately, and with full need seeking a third way, and clearly no way will answer them except Islam and the way of the Islamic revolution. For this reason, outside our borders we are witnessing throngs of people turning to the Islamic revolution, both politically and economically. We therefore propose, under these conditions when the world is in an economic hell, that the book "Our Economy" by Martyr Sadr be printed in large quantities, translated into the languages of the world, and made available to the libraries of the universities of the world, and it would be appropriate for the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to assign greater importance to this important matter.

Noting that no value must be neglected at any price, the speaker said: Today it is time for the insiders in the Islamic government to recognize their true companions, who are the very barefoot and oppressed people. In the war between the rich and the poor and the struggle between the Islam of Mohammad and Americanized Islam, instances of which are also observable inside the country, they must break the backs of those in the front of the wealthy, the painlessly well-off, the plunderers and the economic terrorists. Today the priceless words of the idol-smashing Imam have been borne out by experience, as polite words and advice to hoarders, bosses, and capitalist and capital-worshipping bullies have been wasted. A statistical comparison and a study of the wealth of society shows that the top 20 percent of our society controls 74.85 percent of the nation's wealth. If we break down this 20 percent, 10 percent owns 11.68 percent and the remaining 10 percent owns 63.17 percent of the society's wealth. Finally, one percent of the last group is found which alone owns 21.8 percent of the

nation's wealth. This means that about 240,000 Tehranis own half of Tehran's movable and immovable assets, while the rest of the people own the other half. Have these thieves been questioned, in accordance with the Constitution, concerning where they obtained it and whether they have paid their real taxes? It is neither justifiable nor believable for our people that we have no law with which to confront this kind of counterrevolutionary anti-people plunderer. Even so, we hope that the law on punishing plunderers, whose urgency rating has already been approved, will become law and go into implementation soon, although the Islamic government will never allow the barefoot messengers of revolutionary security to become captive to the capital of the painlessly well-off, the bosses and profiteers. Unfortunately, here and there in the country we see orders being issued to reclaim agricultural lands and the like, which the oppression-breaking flood of the Islamic revolution had taken away from the usurpers and bullies and given it back to the farmers, so that once again the feudal culture can return to the villages. This is a great and serious danger that must be dealt with.

In this regard he added: Another difficulty in this matter is the problem of religious endowments with the people. In the past, some of the feudal bosses obtained a sum of money from caliph Ehsan and suddenly one or several large villages were made into special endowments with all their movable and immovable assets, and today that has created a headache in many places. It is hoped that the insiders will deal with cases like this with study and caution. In view of the problem with lands facing most provinces, I call upon the respected Majles, especially the respected Agriculture Commission, to compile and present a bill to the deputies that will at least designate a final status and enact a final law on the land question that will prevent the continuous issuance of land reclamation orders.

In conclusion, he said: The Dorud cement factories, in addition to the heavy, indescribable smoke, according to samples taken by the Environmental Protection Organization, dump more than 29 tons of cement dust on the heads of the martyr-nurturing and always vigilant people of the Municipality of Dorud and the surrounding rural areas and have become destroyers of the environment. They have affected and are affecting a generation, and unfortunately, according to the necessary information and notices from the appropriate officials, no serious steps have been taken. Here I urge the Environmental Protection Organization and the Ministry of Industries not to allow tens of thousands of human beings to be sacrificed to a machine, a machine or factory that should be in the service of human beings. It is expected that this matter will be dealt with seriously, and that the people of that area, their environment, and the orchards in the area will be saved from the obvious damage of pollution.

The Dorud and Azna deputy also called on the Ministry of Health and Treatment to deal seriously with the undesirable health and treatment situation in the Province of Lorestan.

Seyyed Mohammad Hasan 'Alavi, Gorgan Deputy

The second pre-agenda speaker was Mr. 'Alavi, Gorgan and Aq Qola deputy. At the beginning of his talk he discussed the unfortunate and horrifying accident on the Gorgan-Behshahr road which resulted in the deaths of three toiling educators of the municipality of Gorgan. He said: If I really tell you about the matter that has caused me to trouble your thoughts, you will all be affected. It was a heart-rending event that happened on the Gorgan-Behshahr road and it was the four-car accident and the deaths of three toiling educators of the city of Gorgan. Of course it was poignant because the three educators were burned to death by a fire in the accident.

Likewise, in this terrifying accident 10 people were killed and wounded. This accident touched the people of Gorgan and the community of educators. I now offer my condolences to their bereaved families, and the dear educators of Gorgan and the rest of the educators. What I wanted to say, however, was that before the splendid triumph of the Islamic revolution, the Gorgan Office of Education and Training was the general office and after the triumph of the revolution during the time the great martyr Raja'i (may God have mercy on him) was minister this meant that these dear ones went from Gorgan to Sari every month, as they were doing this time, to obtain confirmation for the payroll roster and return. When the accident happened, these dear ones were traveling at top speed to Sari in their automobile to keep from breaking their Ramadan fast, then to finish their work more quickly and return to Gorgan before noon. We urge the respected minister of education and training to reconsider this matter and return the management of Gorgan's education to the same general office that existed at first. In the Gorgan area we now have more than 10 or 12 general offices. You know that the distance from that side of East Azerbaijan to Sari is more than 250 kilometers, and this traveling back and forth has caused the time of these dear ones to be lost, and on the road these people regularly risk their lives.

In this matter Mr. Alavi addressed the minister of roads and transport. He said: Mr. Engineer Sa'idi-Kiya, if you believe it, several months ago at a meeting of province deputies at the home of Mr. Damadi I issued a special memo about the accidents that are happening on the Gorgan-Behshahr road. In the last three or four years there have been more than 2,000 accidents in this area and more than 5,000 deaths and injuries. Don't you think all this loss of life and property is enough for the people of Gorgan or Dasht-e Gorgan?

Jahansha Danesh, Masjed-e Soleyman Deputy

The third pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Danesh, Masjed-e Soleyman deputy. In his talk, he asked President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to take rapid steps to meet the general needs of the people of the nation and to make his directives clear and fast, for time wasted is coveted by the counterrevolution.

He then continued his talk and said: The month of Ramadan is the month of divine light. It is the month of the night of the destiny of Imam 'Ali (peace be upon him), it is the month of disgrace for falsehood and the month of the paradigm of martyrdom at the pulpit, a place where worship is to be preferred to certain death, and we must act upon this law. We believe that the law is the blood price of the martyrs, and the law must not be weakened. Rather, a price worthy of the government of the Islamic Republic must be paid for a law that is religiously legitimate. We must support the law without reservation with our lives and our assets. Breaking the law must be avoided, and through concern and effort the restrictions and obstacles can be overcome. You law-breakers, however, are not welcome. We will implement the law with all precision. Whoever dares to break the law hurts the entire government and plants the seeds for pessimism and low confidence in the government of the Islamic Republic. The officials of the government must deal harshly with those who have no concern for the law, because soundness of the law is soundness of the people. Abu Zar's [a companion of Mohammad known for his humility and asceticism] persistence and perseverance in defending the rights of the needy and the oppressed is the culture of Abu Zar that the Prophet taught to his companion and successor in Medina, and his strange death in this connection showed that living like Abu Zar is the model and the pattern of a true and proud Muslim for Muslim society and for strengthening the government of the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him). In order to adopt the school of 'Ali (peace be upon him) and follow that path in Islamic government, one must follow the lesson of Abu Zar and study in an Abu Zar class. The economic agitators must realize that their illegal, shameful, and hostile acts will certainly receive a lawful response in the Islamic government. Government officials will never allow the lifeblood of the nation's economy to be destroyed by unprincipled people, and they will never allow them to paralyze the life and livelihood of the people. The aim of economic activity is not to make a profit, it is to meet the material and spiritual needs of oneself and society. Managers must serve the people more in the least amount of time and with the fewest resources, and in the first year of the Five-Year Plan they must set out with firm resolve with no doubts and do the work of the people in the best way, working day and night.

He then added: Success for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Five-Year Plan will be a punch in the mouth for his opponents. This experimental Five-Year-Plan will be a test every month for the ability and management of those in charge of affairs. The month of Ramadan is a shower of mercy, the month of justice and the month of insight. What will we do with those without insight? I call upon the exalted leader of the revolution to dissolve all appointments and turn the work of investigation and discerning competence over to the main authority, meaning the Ministry of Intelligence, so that it can become involved in managing the affairs of the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, because each of the appointment cells in this nation beats a drum of its own, and some of them have become shops for some individuals who do not have a proper understanding of society overall and the Islamic revolution at this time.

Mr. Danesh explained that the dissolution of appointments is a revolutionary act that will break the atmosphere of distrust and no confidence. He said: I know individuals who have been involved in appointment issues for years without wrongdoing. The appointment units in the nation's ministries, organizations, and units are complex and there is a problem every day. The only solution is in the capable hands of the exalted leader, who can guide the authorities to a single place so that competence is determined. On the eve of the blessed month of Ramadan the appointment cell for education and training in the Province of Khuzestan fired a teacher without recourse after several years in the hardships of a village, but they do not molest the flatterers that surround them, and they will have jobs in education and training indefinitely.

Morteza Zarringol, Sanandaj Deputy

Mr. Morteza Zarringol, Sanandaj deputy, was the final pre-agenda speaker. He commemorated Army Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran and declared his support and that of the Muslim people of Kordestan for the statements by the speaker of the Majles, a sincere student of the Imam, concerning dealing with monopolists and economic agitators, and he called upon the judicial authorities to deal decisively with individuals of this type.

He then made a proposal to the nation's economic and political planners in the resolution of problems. He said:

In order for us to lay out and continue a real and successful course of action, the following elements must be considered to give success in finding the roots and solutions to problems, otherwise, instead of finding fundamental solutions we will be dealing with causes and effects. Society's unused capital must be blocked in whatever direction its owners want it and where their interests are designated. Centers under government supervision or which are managed in other ways that play a significant role in inflation and raising prices and do not pay taxes to the government must be affected and investors must be led into having a share in the production of basic implements. If we want to be free of dependence and give youth a share in production, we certainly must prevent the import of goods and materials that can be produced domestically. Instead of the random sale of foreign exchange on the market at competitive and preferred rates, conditions should be created and announced where foreign exchange is sold to an individual or individuals who are effective in producing what the nation needs. In view of the fact that criminal America has put Iran under economic embargo and even makes it difficult for us to sell oil to other country, currently there is a hot market in Iran for American Winston and Marlboro cigarettes. The nation of partisans of God considers it shameful to consume those, and

wants their illegal smuggling into the country stopped. They expect them to be banned in the style of Mirza Shirazi. As a member of the Housing and Urban Development and Roads and Transport Commission, I propose that instead of air transportation maritime transportation be supported. According to information obtained, the cost of buying a single aircraft with a capacity of 500 passengers is 1 million dollars, and many problems must be endured to make this purchase, yet the cost of purchasing a ship with the same capacity is less than 5 million dollars. Moreover the fuel and maintenance costs are less than one-tenth of the cost of aircraft, and with voyages to the nations of the Persian Gulf the economic condition of the deprived people of the area will be much better, and one outcome of this would be absolute sovereignty over the waters of the Persian Gulf.

He then discussed the problems in Kordestan. He said: Recently one of the great brothers of the Majles requested an appointment from Mr. Yunesi, the respected Tehran prosecutor, to discuss some of the problems in the province. An appointment was given after one week, and I went to his office at the designated time. Unfortunately, I waited more than 45 minutes, and it was announced several times by his secretary that the Sanandaj deputy was waiting and the answer came to be patient for now. My patience ran out and I abandoned the meeting. The question that came to my mind was, if instead of me it had been a representative of the monopolists and hoarders who suck the blood of the Muslim people of this Islamic land, would he have been dealt with in the same way? Ayatollah Yazdi is expected to organize the prosecutor's office in a way that is worthy of the Islamic revolution, to eliminate all areas of stagnation and smooth the way fairly for those who are worthy. Of course there is a precedent for the judiciary's dealings in Kordestan, both in the past and currently. Mr. Bojnurdi was in the process of studying and investigating a controversial file in Kordestan, but before he could reach a conclusion and issue a decision he was called to Tehran, and it is obvious what will happen to the file. A crime that happened in Kordestan cannot be investigated in Tehran. The special clerical court will disregard, without even issuing a memo, a complaint about someone who gives millions of rials to the Municipality of Sanandaj, money from the same people he claims to be serving. This person stops municipal development work, he ruins the municipal stairway, with a bulldozer he flattens in a single night a park that has been built by the municipality, and he does tens of other destructive things. The question that arises is, if one of these violations were committed by an ordinary person in the region, would the judiciary still overlook it indifferently? Some time ago the Kordestan prosecutor's office had an encounter with province executive officials and arrested and imprisoned a number of them. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr. Musavi-Kho'iniha quelled the disturbance and freed the detainees, and the prosecutor's office confessed to its mistakes at a meeting of the province Administrative Council, but what action was taken against the original perpetrators of this mistake?

At one time criminal American agents shouted the slogan of self-determination in Kordestan, but with the capable hands of the combatants of Islam they were driven out of Kordestan and crawled back to the even more wretched coat tails of their masters, and they deserved nothing other than this. However, what has been done with the opportunists who exercise self-determination in whatever matter comes to their feeble minds? Unfortunately, they haven't even received a notice. Instead, they have traded their Peykans for Mercedes, while in the cities of Kordestan criticism of the complaints of the fruitful son of His Holiness the Imam are still being broadcast and distributed. Why isn't action taken against the agents and appointees of the condemned Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi, who are still plotting in Kordestan against the people and the true servants of the people? After the revolution, if the public treasury had been used for development work instead of squandered by these individuals, all the problems of the people would have been solved, and in this period the Muslim Kurdish people would not have had all the grief, the sorrow, and the dastardly plots from these individuals. What filthy hands are at work, that the Muslim and revolutionary clergy are being pushed aside in Kordestan? Why must the Friday imam be constantly harassed and hounded and go from place to place in taxis and hired automobiles, when he is supported, respected, and liked by the people, yet a few kilometers away the Friday imam of that city comes and goes in Toyotas, Chevrolets, and many guards, and is even able to utilize the ration allotments of the people of the city of Kelid va Pariz (since his own city is in another province) to procure his glass and paper? Is this not a double standard? If a notice were sent to him about this there would be a hue and cry, leaflets would be circulated and petitions collected saying he left his home and lodging and came to serve the province. In short, they are insulted by whatever is said that is not in their interests.

He then said: The issue of the arrest of a number of the province's innocent executive officials got into the newspapers and with absolute crudeness they wrote that Kordestan has been plundered and expressed happiness and contentment with the entanglement of the partisans of God, and in the introduction the writer wrote that he heard of the arrest while reading the opening verse of the Koran at Behesht-e Mohammadi, the burial place of the martyrs of Kordestan, martyr Ta'rif, martyr Beheshti, and martyr Jamaran, yet these martyrs are not buried at Behesht-e Mohammadi, and the people see that these gentlemen do not even know the burial place of Kordestan's famous martyrs, let alone reading the opening verse of the Koran there. These individuals have become known to the people of Kordestan, and they know their true servants. Perhaps some of the respected deputies who have gone to the province have realized that these people have no base of support among the people. For this reason, the meetings that are held by these people end with the participation of a small number of people who generally have orders. Yet when the vice-regent of the Muslims or the respected president and the toiling

prime minister come to Kordestan, these same people turn out in striking numbers with eagerness and unprecedented enthusiasm to declare their abundant support for the government and its esteemed officials, and all along the way they commemorate the arrival of the true heirs of the Imams (Peace Be upon Them). We have all witnessed the matchless involvement of the Kurdish people. This group always makes it known to the people that they regard themselves as privileged because of being in Kordestan, as if they were serving in the jungles of the Amazon, yet they have gotten fatter during their service in Kordestan, and their financial situation has improved as well over what it was when they came. I call upon the respected Ministry of Intelligence to order the province intelligence office to report on the violations of these people and carry out its primary mission.

Mr. Zarringol then discussed the problems in his electoral district. He said: I ask the Ministry of the Interior as soon as possible to look into the weaknesses that were imposed on the province in the last few months while the governor-general's office was under a supervisor, to take the necessary steps to compensate by employing specialist, committed, and believing people in the service of the people of Kordestan, because currently some people who are regarded as weak in the provinces have key positions and high political offices, and I emphasize again that the Ministry of the Interior must appoint governors for the districts of Kamyaran and Divandarreh and make more resources available to the municipalities of the Province of Kordestan so we will see more services and prosperity for the cities of this province.

Concluding his talk, he invited the Majles speaker to come to the province, and he called upon the nation of Partisans of God, especially the Muslim people of Kordestan, to give a good showing at the Jerusalem Day march.

Report on the Public Session

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's public Majles session was the report from the First Council of the Plan and Budget Commission on the bill to establish a center for assessment of satellite usage in Iran, which was approved by vote in its entirety.

Likewise there was the report from the First Council of the Housing and Urban Development Commission concerning the bill to delete paragraph D from the Consumer Cooperative Organization Law of the Police Association enacted in Khordad of 1334 [22 May-21 June 1955], the entirety of which was approved by the deputies.

The third agenda item was the report from the Islamic Guidance and Art Commission concerning the law to amend Article 22 of the Press Law, which was approved by the deputies. The amendment implemented was "the term Majles Consultative Assembly was changed to Council of Ministers."

The final item on the agenda for yesterday's public Majles session was the report from the First Council of the Housing and Urban Development Commission on the bill to form a national Supreme Oceanography Council, which was approved in its entirety by the deputies.

On Sunday morning of next week [22 April] the Majles will meet in public session.

The Deputies' Memos to the Country's Executive Officials

- Mr. Hedayati, Faridan and Faridun Shahr Deputy:

To the minister of education and training, form special girls' schools in the villages of the area and to the minister of petroleum, give priority to the cities of Faridan and Faridun Shahr in Chadgan in the matter of gas delivery.

Mr. Qoreysh, Khomeyn deputy:

To the minister of health, treatment, and medical education, observe justice in allocating medicine to Khomeyn and in the allocation of potable water projects to the region's six villages.

Deputies Damadi and Shoja'i of Sari:

To the minister of construction jihad, expedite the provision of electricity to the Estakhrposht area.

Deputy Emam Musavi of Shushtar:

To the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone, solve the problem of cable codes in Shushtar, and to the minister of petroleum, establish a gasoline pump in Shushtar.

Mr. Taha, Bukan deputy:

To the minister of health, treatment, and medical education, obtain a service and health care cadre and equipment for the Bukan hospital, and to the minister of petroleum, procure fuels for Bukan, especially for agricultural use.

Mr. Heydari-Moqaddam, Al-Shotor and Nurabad deputy:

To the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone, expedite the cable communications projects and increase the number of telephone lines in al-Shotor, to the minister of the interior, convert al-Shotor to a district and make changes in the national decision-making process in the area.

Mr. Karrubi, Majles speaker, offered condolences on his own behalf and that of the Majles to Mr. Mohammad Hashemi-Rahbari, a deputy during the first and second Majles terms, on the occasion of the death of his great father.

Nepal & Bhutan

Constitutional Conference Opens 3 May

BK0405132290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1305 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 4 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai has said the country's new constitution would limit the king's powers, create electoral districts and guarantee voting rights to those

over 18. It "would definitely be a constitutional monarchy limiting the power of the king," Mr. Bhattarai said at the opening of a three-day conference on the prospective constitution here Thursday [3 May].

Participants on Friday [4 May] stressed the need for an interim constitution defining the powers and functions of the interim coalition government until elections are held.

"The main basis of the now disbanded panchayat (one-party system) was the crown's active leadership and the backing of the police force," Mr. Bhattarai said, adding that the king now wants less direct responsibility.

King Birendra dissolved Parliament, lifted a 30-year ban on political parties and appointed an interim coalition government last month after eight weeks of pro-democracy protests. Mr. Bhattarai credited the reforms to "the sacrifice of 500 lives" in the campaign and acknowledged "strong and invaluable support" from the United States, West Germany, Britain and Scandinavia.

The national conference, organised by the Nepal Law Society, includes some 350 Nepalese lawyers and 13 foreign legal experts from various international agencies, state-run Radio Nepal said Friday. Seventy-three lawyers who were jailed during the pro-democracy protests are participating in the conference, according to Chuda Mani Raj Singh Malla, a leading Supreme Court advocate and chairman of the conference preparatory committee.

The conference, whose decisions are not binding, aims to prepare the ground for a drafting committee to frame a new constitution. Supreme Court Advocate Daman Dhungana said the new constitution would be based on the 1959 Constitution but would exclude Article 55, under which King Birendra's father dissolved Nepal's first parliamentary system and banned political parties in December 1960.

Power would be vested in and safeguarded by the public, he said, adding that "the new constitution will be a common platform of unity between the monarch and the people"

Mr. Bhattarai has said the constitution will be framed within 90 days from the date the drafting committee is formed.

King Reportedly Hands Power to New Government

OW0705132490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1238 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 7 KYODO—Nepal's King Birendra has agreed to hand over power to the Kingdom's new government, which has remained virtually powerless since its creation April 19 following a successful popular uprising, a senior leader of the ruling Nepali Congress Party (NCP) said Monday [7 May].

Girija Prasad Koirala, NCP general secretary, told reporters the monarch gave the assurance in a meeting with him Sunday [6 May]. Koirala said he told King Birendra that the present government feels powerless under the existing constitution because all powers—executive, legislative and judicial—rest with the king.

He demanded that the king hand over full powers to the government.

"I told the king that if that is not going to happen, we will withdraw and go to the opposition again," the general secretary said. The NCP, until recently the largest political group opposing Nepal's previous partyless system, had spearheaded the recent pro-democracy movement in the country.

The king reportedly said he is willing to help the new interim government. Koirala said the king made assurances that he would not try to block the implementation of decisions made by the cabinet.

Prime Minister K.P. Bhattarai is expected to submit to the king on Tuesday [8 May] the government's proposal for setting up a commission which will change the country's constitution, according to party sources. The govenment says it has not been able to carry out its stated policy to punish those who went to extremes and committed excesses during the recent uprising, including the removal of at least seven regional administrators allegedly involved in the crackdown. The government wants to remove the seven zonal commissioners—all royal appointees—for allegedly having ordered the shooting of pro-democracy demonstrators. The king alone is empowered to fire these regional administrators.

Meanwhile, the night-time curfew imposed in Kathmandu and Lalitpur in the wake of clashes between authorities and pro-democracy demonstrators on April 23 will continue to remain in effect for a few days, officials said.

Premier Dissolves Zonal Commissions, Sports Body

BK0805004890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1926 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 7 (AFP)—Nepal's Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said Monday [7 May] that his government was being allowed to dissolve the posts of 14 zonal commissioners and the highly controversial National Sports Council. The move came a day after after talks between King Birendra and Girija Prasad Koirala, secretary general of the Nepali Congress, the main party of Mr. Bhattarai's ruling coalition. Mr. Bhattarai made the announcement while speaking at a meeting of the traditional religious society forum.

The 14 zonal commissioners cover 75 administrative headquarters and were created in 1961 by the late King Mahendra, father of the current monarch, to defend the partyless panchayat (council) system and to suppress supporters of a multi-party system. The zonal commissioners enjoyed full administrative and quasi-judicial power. The panchayat system was ended on April 8,

when King Birendra lifted the ban on political parties after a two-month pro-democracy campaign in which hundreds of people died.

The central working committee of the Nepali Congress had recently recommended that the posts be abolished.

The controversial National Sports Council had been seen as the bailiwick of the Mandales, a right-wing underground group loyal to the monarch and linked to violent attacks on pro-democracy advocates.

Political observers here said they believed that Mr. Koirala sought the audience with the king to enable the coalition government take some important decisions.

They said that the assurances given by the king to Mr. Koirala on Sunday [6 May], followed by the dissolution of the zonal commissioners and sports body, were highly significant and were expected to diffuse a source of possible tension between the monarch and the government.

During their 90-minute meeting, Mr. Koirala explained technical difficulties faced by the government.

"I have explained to the king that he should cooperate with the coalition government sincerely, and delegate full authority to the prime minister to function independently," he told reporters afterwards.

"I have explained to the king straight away that (he) should not act halfheartedly, and he should extend full cooperation to make the coalition government effective and successful," Mr. Koirala said. He said that King Birendra had assured him of his cooperation in implementing the government's decisions.

Mr. Koirala also said that he had suggested the abolition of zonal commission posts, as they were ineffective in the current political climate and their elimination would help the government keep costs down. He said that he had also requested that the king constitute an election commission to draft a new constitution as soon as possible, and suggested that a constitutional monarchy would serve the interest of the crown and help safeguard it in the future.

It was Mr. Koirala's second meeting with King Birendra since the party ban was lifted.

Curfew Continues in Kathmandu, Lalitpur Areas

BK0705150490 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] His majesty's government has imposed a curfew today also within the vicinity of Kathmandu and Lalitpur town areas on and within the [word indistinct] of the Kathmandu valley, including some areas outside the [word indistinct] from 2200 this evening to 0400 tomorrow morning to maintain law and order.

Bhattarai Wants Trade Talks With India Resumed

BK0205090190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] The Nepali prime minister, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai, has said that he is anxious to resume talks with India for removing the year-long stalemate between the two countries and conclude a trade and transit treaty. Addressing a meeting of the Nepal Journalists Association in Kathmandu today, he said the treaty would help remove the economic hardships of the Nepali people. Mr. Bhattarai said there is no question of any prestige issue and that he would even go to Delhi for talks.

Pakistan

Army Denies Two Soldiers Killed in Border Clash

BK0605084890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0826 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 6 (AFP)—The Pakistani Army Sunday [6 May] denied an Indian report that two Pakistani soldiers were killed in a gunbattle along the Line of Control dividing the disputed territory of Kashmir. "There was no killing of any nature" Saturday [5 May] in the bordering sector of Poonch, contrary to a report carried by the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI), a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

"No soldier was killed," he said, but he confirmed that "intermittent" firing took place in that sector "in the past week."

He also denied that Pakistani soldiers were building bunkers in the Poonch sector. It is "baseless," he said.

However, the spokesman reported an incident in the Lipa sector, northeast of Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, facing the Titwal area, on the Indian side. He said a Pakistani civilian identified as Zamin Shah, from the Bala village, was killed Friday [4 May] while was working in the fields when Indian soldiers opened fire.

Tension remains high between Pakistan and India due to the current militant campaign against New Delhi authorities in the Moslem majority Indian state of Kashmir. India blames Pakistan for arming and training the militants, while Islamabad denies the charge.

The two neighbours have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since gaining independence from Britain in 1947.

Home Minister Notes Improvement in Kashmir

BK0505035690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Members of the all-party advisory committee on Kashmir had a meeting with the union home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, in New Delhi last night. The meeting was held to take stock of the situation in the

state and to promote efforts to restore normalcy there. According to official sources, the minister gave his assessment of the latest law and order situation and the steps taken by the state administration to infuse a feeling of security among the people. The home minister told the members that there is a distinct improvement in the situation and the paramilitary forces continue to mount pressure on the terrorists. The said that the center has issued strict instructions to the state administration to ensure that the genuine grievances of the people are promptly redressed and there is no harassment of innocent persons.

Opening the third Al-Amin All-India Educational Conference in New Delhi yesterday, the home minister also said that Kashmir is a symbol of Indian secularism, and at no cost the state will be allowed to become the hotbed for secessionist elements. Mufti Sayeed pointed out that the unity of the nation is sacred and nobody will be allowed to undermine it. He asserted that the people are capable of defending the solidarity of the country from any external and internal threat.

Troops Leave Barracks for 'Summer Training'

BK0605153390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, May 6 (AFP)—Pakistan Army troops have left their barracks on "summer training," a Pakistan Defence Ministry spokesman said here Sunday [6 May]. But the spokesman denied that the troop movement was on large scale, adding that the unit-level exercises will last two months.

The troops will be trained in crossing rivers and canals, as well acclimatize for the summer, he said. The war games were expected to be called off before the monsoon season which starts in July, the spokesman said. The areas of the exercises have not been specified, beyond saying that troops will remain "close to the cantonments."

Observers said they considered the war games in hot weather to be unusual, but Defence Ministry sources said it was normal process in the Army.

The announcement came after Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh called three weeks ago for his country to be "psychologically prepared" for war. His statement followed an escalation in tension between the two traditional rivals over Kashmir, where a Moslem revolt against Indian rule has claimed 450 lives so far this year.

As the troops went out on "summer exercises", President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Sunday chaired the first of six days of meetings of Pakistan's top military brass, officials said. They said that General Mirza Aslam Beg, the Army chief of staff, was also attending and that Mr. Ishaq Khan was informed about "some professional matters" of the Army.

UN 'Fact-Finding Mission' in Kashmir Requested

BK0705023290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Siknader Hayat Khan has asked the UN secretary general to send a fact-finding mission to occupied Kashmir to investigate atrocities perpetrated by Indian security forces on innocent Kashmiri people. A memorandum to this effect was given to the chief of the UN observers in Rawalpindi yesterday.

The memorandum also states that the Indian forces killed 126 Kashmiri youths in the last few days and hung their bodies on trees near the Line of Control. India has also set up torture cells for freedom fighters.

PRC's Wan Li Continues Islamabad Visit

Attends Dinner

BK0505060690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] The Sino-Pakistan friendship based on solid foundations has become a model for developing relations between states with different social systems. This was stated by Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, at a dinner hosted in his honor by Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad in Islamabad last night. Wan Li said that despite the vicissitudes in the international scene, the Sino-Pakistan friendship based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence will continue to develop and grow in strength. Both Pakistan and China will ever remain mutually trustworthy friends.

The Senate chairman in his welcome address referred to the enviable, long and illustrious history of the time-tested friendship between Pakistan and China and said both countries, respecting the principles of equality and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, are cooperating for their mutual benefit. He lauded China's generous assistance to Pakistan in various fields, particularly in industry.

Referring to the current movement in occupied Kashmir, the Senate chairman said India, ignoring all international norms, is carrying out oppression on unarmed civilians instead of trying to settle the dispute in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. He said despite Pakistan's desire for peaceful coexistence, India has always failed to reciprocate. Wasim Sajjad said Pakistan has been striving to promote friendship with all countries, particularly with its neighbors. He referred to Pakistan's participation in SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and said it is Pakistan's conviction that mutually-beneficial regional cooperation on the basis of sovereign equality can generate a climate of trust. It can pave the way for peaceful settlement of disputes.

Meets With Premier Bhutto

BK0605155190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 May 90

[Excerpt] The Chinese delegation led by Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today. They discussed bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest. The prime minister described Pakistan-China relations as a model and emphasized that relations with China enjoy a pivotal place in Pakistan's foreign policy. These relations have stood all tests of time. The prime minister expressed (?appreciation) for China's wholehearted cooperation in all sectors. She said the two countries have stood by each other in all difficult times.

Wan Li termed his meeting with the prime minister as useful and said that it will have a positive effect on the cordial relations between the two countries. He said that during the meeting, they exchanged views on the current situation in Kashmir and the latest developments in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Remarks on Kashmir, Afghanistan; Departs

BK0605113490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] The chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, Mr. Wan Li, has said that China always supported the just aspirations of the people of Kashmir and it would continue to do so in future. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this afternoon before his departure at the end of a five-day visit to Pakistan. He said the Chinese people strongly desire that the Kashmir dispute should be resolved through a dialogue and peaceful means.

On Afghanistan, the Chinese leader said his country strongly feels that it is now time for all parties to sit around the table to arrive at a formula for setting up a broad-based government acceptable to the people of that country. He said the Chinese Government would continue to support the people of Afghanistan.

Foreign Secretary Receives PRC Diplomat

BK0505150090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Bilateral consultations between China's First Vice Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan and Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Tanvir Ahmad Khan were held in Islamabad today. The two sides discussed a wide range of subjects of international and regional importance and noted identity of views on them. This was the fourth round of annual consultations between the two countries. This process of consultation was institutionalized in January 1986 to create greater understanding between the two countries.

Bangladesh Navy Chief Meets Defense Officials

Colonel Cheema

BK0505083690 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] The Bangladesh Navy chief, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, had a meeting with the minister of state for defense, retired Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, in Islamabad today. They discussed matters concerning future cooperation between navies of the two brotherly countries.

The Bangladesh Navy chief also had separate meetings with the chairman, joint chiefs of staff committee, Admiral Itfikhar Ahmad Sirohey; and the chief of the naval staff, Admiral Yasturul Haq Malik.

General Beg

BK0605090890 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] The Bangladesh chief of naval staff, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, called on the adviser to the prime minister on foreign affairs and national security, Mr. Iqbal Akhund, in Islamabad today and had informal talks with him on matters of mutual interest. Earlier, the Bangladesh chief of naval staff visited the general headquarters in Rawalpindi and called on the chief of army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg. They discussed matters of bilateral significance.

Marshal Hakimullah

BK0705120290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] The Bangladesh Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, had a meeting with the chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshal Hakimullah, in Rawalpindi today. He exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

20 Die in Express Train Bombing

BK0605120290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1156 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, May 6 (AFP)—A powerful bomb ripped through an express train near here Sunday [6 May], leaving as many as 20 people dead, Pakistani police said. A large number of injured were removed to the local Mayo hospital, witnesses said. Police said the death toll could be higher.

The train was Tez Gam, the country's most prestigious express, which was en route from northern Rawalpindi to Karachi.

Eight Bodies Recovered

BK0605132890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] A bomb exploded in a bogie [railcar] of the Tez Gam train near Badami Bagh railway station in Lahore

this afternoon causing a number of casualties. Eight dead bodies have been recovered so far; 35 other passengers were reported injured. The train was coming to Lahore from Rawalpindi and was in motion at the time of explosion. Injured persons have been rushed to the Mayo Hospital and the train was (?brought to) Badami Bagh railway station. Meanwhile, an emergency center has been opened in the Ministry of Railways. Further information can be obtained on phone numbers: 824656 and 822897.

Bhutto Sees 'Foreign Hand'

BK0705024090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has expressed great grief and sorrow at the loss of lives in a bomb blast on the Tez Gam train near Lahore yesterday. Talking to newsmen at the annual Senate dinner in Islamabad last night, she said the possibility of a foreign hand's involvement in the incident cannot be ruled out. She said that only after an appropriate investigation could the culprits be identified.

New Antitank, Antiaircraft Missile Developed

BK0705110190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 May 90 p 1

[Text] Lahore, May 6—Engineers attached with the defence forces have successfully manufactured international standard anti-tank and anti-aircraft missile, which is expected to be launched soon for test.

The newly developed missile has been named as "green missile" and will have speed and destroying capacity equivalent to the American made anti-tank and anti-aircraft missile.

According to informed sources the new "green missile" will fulfil sufficient requirements of the defence forces to repulse the attack of tanks and warplanes on Pakistan territory in future.

The sources said that the missile was under study of experts of the defence forces and will be tested in near future.

It may be added that the defence forces were totally importing anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles, from America and other Western countries, but after development of "green missile" the dependence on foreign countries will considerably come down.

'Radical' Muslim Women's Group Banned in Kashmir

BK0405102490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Jammu, India, May 4 (AFP)—Indian authorities have outlawed a radical women's group in Kashmir and shut its offices throughout the northern state in a stepped-up crackdown on militant groups, an official spokesman said Thursday [3 May]. The police outlawed Dakhtarane Millet or Daughters of Faith organisation late Thursday and ordered its offices to shut, accusing the group of being a wing of the militant Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), he said.

The official said the Millet leader, Aasiyeh Andrabi, who lives in the group headquarters in Srinagar, the state's summer capital, had not been arrested. "No one from the group has been arrested or jailed," the spokesman said, adding that the Millet was the ninth militant outfit in Kashmir to be banned since April 1.

Thursday's ban follows police allegations that the Millet, with an enrolled membership of 70,000 Kashmiri women, was "indulging in subversive and terrorist activities," the state administration spokesman said. The Millet was banned two months after Ms. Andrabi, a graduate, urged Kashmiri women to carry sharp daggers or pistols to kill Indian security men to defend their honour during raids on their homes.

Kashmir's only women's social organisation, the Millet was formed in 1987 with the aim of urging local women to vigorously embrace the Muslim way of life and since December has urged its members to join the escalating campaign against India's control of this region which Pakistan disputes. The group has charged Indian paramilitary troopers with mass rape of Kashmiri girls and attacks on pregnant women and children. Authorities have admitted to a few excesses, but deny the widespread charges.

Meanwhile the spokesman in Jammu, where the Indian administration is now headquartered, said security forces late Thursday shot dead a senior Muslim militant in southern Anantnag town during a search operation. Fifty four other militants were arrested throughout the Muslim-dominated Kashmir Valley Thursday, the spokesman said, adding that 32 of them, including a senior JKLF activist, were from the Kashmir border Uri sector. Indian intelligence agencies suspect Muslim militants of using Uri as a corridor to slip into neighbouring Pakistan for weapons, and New Delhi Thursday announced it would fence off strategic sectors near the border.

At least 450 people have died so far this year in violence linked to the flaring Muslim campaign for Kashmir's indepedence from India. New Delhi blames Islamabad for fanning the unrest in this disputed state, a charge vehemently denied by Pakistan.

Sri Lanka

Further on Japanese Premier Kaifu's Visit

Kaifu Promises Grant

BK0405120490 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Japan is to provide a $230,000 grant for the preservation of an archeological site in Kandy. This was revealed at the official talks between President R. Premadasa and the visiting prime minister of Japan, Toshiki Kaifu, yesterday. Prime Minister Kaifu is the first Japanese head of government in 33 years to visit the

island, his fourth stop in a five-nation tour of South Asia designed to raise Japan's diplomatic profile. The talks between the two leaders lasted for two hours.

Briefing newsmen on the talks, the official spokesman for the Japanese prime minister, (Istaki Naka), said Prime Minister Kaifu and the Sri Lankan president exchanged views on international matters and on political issues during the two rounds of talks. Premadasa briefed the Japanese prime minister on the good relations Sri Lanka was having with neighboring countries.

In the course of the discussion, the Japanese prime minister touched on the situation in Sri Lanka and appreciated the steps taken by the Sri Lankan Government in bringing about normalcy in the country. President Premadasa also briefed the visiting prime minister on measures taken by him since assuming office in solving the problems faced by the country. While expressing thanks for all assistance already given by Japan, President Premadasa explained to Kaifu about the poverty alleviation program.

The Japanese prime minister pointed out that it was only last month that the Japanese Government granted 300 million yen for Sri Lanka's nutrition improvement program. Japan will also implement youth exchange program where Japan would invite 500 youths from South Asian countries during a period of five years.

Present at the talks were the Japanese ambassador in Sri Lanka, Isamu Nitta, and other visiting officials of the Japanese side. Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge, Foreign Minister Harold Herath, Industries Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe, and other senior officials were also present.

Premadasa, Kaifu Speak at Banquet

BK0405123090 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] President Premadasa says that Sri Lanka and Japan have a history of friendship and mutual cooperation that extends deep into the past. He added that the government is looking forward to further enriching Japanese-Sri Lankan cooperation. The president noted that the government is looking forward to Japanese counsel and inspiration in the [words indistinct] continent in Asia. The country needs the Japanese guidance, too, in the emerging world with all nations—big and small—(?much) fastened together.

The president was speaking at the banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Japanese prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, and Madam Sachiyo Kaifu, at (Vithumpaya) in Colombo last night. The president noted that Sri Lanka has recently gone through a period of tragic turmoil and trauma. The prime minister of Japan is visiting Sri Lanka at a time when the country is emerging from a dark and dismal night into a dawn of great promises. The misunderstandings and misdeeds that divided the people and wounded civilization are being healed. The president said the political process of conciliation, compromise, and consensus has been set in motion. The grievances of the past are being overcome. Understanding and tolerance are being forged for the future.

President Premadasa pointed out at a time of tumultuous global changes, the visit of the Japanese prime minister is historic. The challenges of change are great. The prospects for peace are positive. An age of perilous confrontation between ideologies is yielding to an age of peaceful cooperation between nations. Economic power is being (?defused) as new centers of influence are developing. Japan rides upon the crest of a new wave. Through prudent management of human, economic, and financial resources and emerged as a major international force, Japan reached these heights through peaceful cooperation among nations. Japan's strength is derived from the honored traditions of loyalty, discipline, and (?perseverance). It has specialized in the application of science and technology to human and material development. Japan's national ethos is unique.

The president stated that Sri Lanka salutes the Japanese people. Japan has always assisted Sri Lanka generously. You have done so without any strings attached. You have done so without laying down conditions. You have never harmed our national pride and our self-respect. President Premadasa pointed out that Sri Lanka is a small developing country. Nevertheless, like Japan, Sri Lanka has an ancient civilization and culture which have been nurtured on the message of Lord Buddha. Inspired by Lord Buddha's teachings and tolerance, people of Sri Lanka live in harmony and amity with other communities and people of Christian, Hindu, and Islamic faiths.

President Premadasa said that Japan and Sri Lanka share a tradition of democracy, emphasizing the people's active participation in the political process.

The Japanese prime minister expressed the hope that under the leadership of President Premadasa, Sri Lanka will achieve true peace and stability. In reply, the Japanese prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, said that Japan and Sri Lanka have been able to make special contribution to peace and welfare of mankind. He added that the bilateral relations between the two countries have not been affected although a Japanese leader has not visited Sri Lanka for a few years. He noted that a Japanese prime minister never visited Sri Lanka for 33 years. This has not affected in any way the (?understanding) and bilateral relations between the two countries, Mr. Kaifu said. A Japanese prime minister visited Sri Lanka in 1957. Mr. Kaifu said that he is the second Japanese prime minister to visit Sri Lanka after 33 years. He recalled President Premadasa's visit to Japan when he was prime minister in Sri Lanka to see the Expo Exhibition and since then the friendship of the people, both in the public and private sectors of Japan, has improved. He noted that relations between the two nations have made great progress, especially in the economic field.

Adviser Reviews Visit

BK0505112690 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] The Japanese prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, has reaffirmed his faith in Sri Lanka during his visit. He has promised enhanced aid and investment to develop industry in Sri Lanka. This was announced by the international relations adviser to the president, Bradman Weerakoon, at a news conference at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday. He said that the discussion the president had with the Japanese prime minister was trustful as far as Sri Lanka was concerned. Mr. Kaifu has expressed his appreciation for developments in the north and east and peace in the south.

President Premadasa told the Japanese prime minister of the signs of peace in the country. These signs will (?purvey) the whole world. This was his perception.

Prime Minister Kaifu pledged additional aid through development assistance and outright grants. He also stated that his country has promised aid to SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries which accounts for 20 percent of the aid Japan was giving to Asia. He welcomed the developments in Nepal and also the multiparty system there.

Mr. Bradman Weerakoon further said the Japanese prime minister was of the view that reports about Sri Lanka's human rights violations were exaggerated and misreported. He was satisfied with the lifting of numerous emergency measures and was impressed and supportive of the poverty alleviation program.

Mr. Kaifu strongly supported the industrialization of Sri Lanka, using the support of the people and modern technology as its base. All encouragement was given by the Sri Lankan government for private industries. Minister of Industries Ranil Wickremasinghe briefed the Japanese prime minister on the industrial development plans for Sri Lanka and the incentives given to the Japanese market. These are on the basis of Asian and cultural contacts in which people knew each other and grew with each other economically [sentence as head].

'Prominent' Tamil Member of Parliament Killed

BK0705091190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0906 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Colombo, May 7 (AFP)—A prominent Sri Lankan Tamil member of parliament, Sam Thambimuttu, was shot dead Monday [7 May] by unidentified gunmen, security officials here said. A military official said that Mr. Thambimuttu, who is a leader of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) was killed by armed men who escaped on a motorcycle.

Mr. Thambimuttu's wife was also said to have been shot and to be in critical condition in hospital.

Mr. Thambimuttu was elected to parliament as a member of the Tamil United Liberation Front at the general elections of February 1989.

Six Airmen Die in Helicopter Crash

BK0605102490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1006 GMT 6 May 90

[Excerpt] Colombo, May 6 (AFP)—Six Sri Lankan airmen died when their helicopter crashed into a densely forested area as they were searching for armed robbers in north central Sri Lanka, authorities said Sunday [6 May]. Air Force Commander Terrence Gunawardena said four officers and two airmen were killed when their chopper, which ran into technical difficulties, crashed Saturday [5 May].

The crash came hours after the government ordered a full-scale search operation for armed men who Friday [4 May] reportedly robbed a group of Western tourists at a hotel in Sigiriya, some 160 kilometers (about 100 miles) from here. The foreigners, believed to include German and French nationals, were robbed by the men who stormed the Sigiriya village hotel located near the historic Sigiriya (lion rock) ruins, police said. The gang got away with a million rupees (25,000 dollars) worth of items belonging to the guests, police said. Press reports said the tourists were left with only their night clothes.

Mr. Gunawardena said the airmen in the chopper were on a routine flight but had been helping the ground forces in the hunt for the armed gang.

A senior police official in the north central region said bad weather could have caused the crash. [passage omitted]